

Harry Potter is Back!

ALL THE INTEL
ON THE NEW
BOOK & PLAY

AUGUST 12, 2016 • #1426



We Heart KEVIN HART

How love—and Oprah—helped him become the biggest comedy star in the nation. BY LEAH GREENBLATT



Plus 50

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& TV SHOWS
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MONEY BACK*

*Not really, according to our lawyers. Sorry.

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THE
TOP 10 THINGS
WE LOVE
THIS WEEK

The Must List

▼ (Clockwise from top left) Aly Raisman, Serena Williams, Allyson Felix, Michael Phelps, Kevin Durant, and Simone Biles



1

TV RIO 2016 OLYMPICS

• Will Simone Biles take home the gold? How will Michael Phelps and Usain Bolt fare in their final competitions? And what about Lilly King's debut at the world's biggest sporting event? Let the parade of nations begin! (Aug. 5–21; see the full schedule at NBCOlympics.com)

2

MUSIC THE GO-GO'S FAREWELL TOUR

• Fall "Head Over Heels" again with the band behind beloved '80s hits like "Vacation" and "We Got the Beat" as they bid goodbye to touring with one last monthlong trek that takes them to 18 cities before wrapping in Los Angeles on Aug. 30.

3

MOVIES THE LITTLE PRINCE

• This charming adaptation uses both stop-motion and CG animation to tell Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's classic 1943 children's tale with the help of an A-list voice cast including Jeff Bridges, Paul Rudd, and Rachel McAdams. (PG; Netflix and select theaters)

4

MUSIC "THE LEGEND OF," Diana Gordon

• Songwriter Gordon's fingerprints were all over Beyoncé's *Lemonade* album—including that now-iconic "Becky with the good hair" lyric from "Sorry." Her first single under her own name is a tour de force of R&B-infused pop.

5

TV THE GET DOWN

• *Moulin Rouge!* director Baz Luhrmann brings his extravagant style to the small screen with this series about the rise of hip-hop in 1970s New York—with help from producers Grandmaster Flash and Nas, who give the winning cast's musical numbers a boost. (Debuts Aug. 12, Netflix)

The Must List

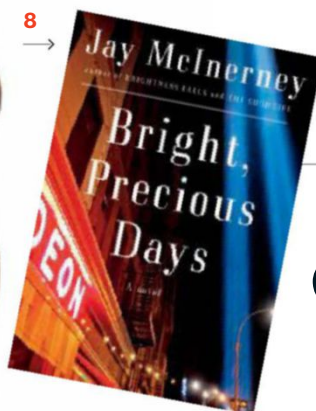
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6

MUSIC RADIOHEAD WORLD TOUR

• For their first string of U.S. dates in four years, the alt-rock legends are bringing tracks from this year's *A Moon Shaped Pool* to life—and digging deep into their classic catalog, too.

7

MOVIES LITTLE MEN

• Setting his film against a backdrop of urban real estate squabbles, director Ira Sachs (*Love Is Strange*) poignantly explores how adolescent friendships get compromised by modern life. (PG)

8

BOOKS BRIGHT, PRECIOUS DAYS, by Jay McInerney

• In his latest offering, McInerney catches up with Corrine and Russell Calloway (the Tribeca-dwelling socialites from *Brightness Falls* and *The Good Life*) as their marriage fractures and the family's finances falter.

9

MUSIC “F--- APOLOGIES,” JoJo

• Nothing to be sorry about here: Go ahead and put the “Leave (Get Out)” singer's crisp, finger-snapping come-back single on repeat as she readies her first studio album in 10 years.

10

GAMES BATMAN—THE TELLTALE SERIES

• Telltale changes the game by spending as much time on Bruce Wayne as it does on Batman. First episode “Realm of Shadows” has Bruce making tough decisions about the kind of hero he'll be—and leaves players hungry for more.

"SHAVING WITH
SOAP AND WATER WON'T
GET YOUR LEGS THIS
SOFT AND SMOOTH!"

- Jana Kramer
Singer/Songwriter

L.O.V.E ♥
Your Legs

GETAWAY SWEEPSTAKES

You and a friend could travel to beautiful Colorado for the *Gildan Esprit de She 5K/10K*, yoga and sunset concert at *Red Rocks Amphitheatre*. Plus, enjoy a day of pampering at *Life Spa* and relax in a fabulous resort.*

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Shazam this ad to see Hammer
do his thing. [#juicytheory](#)

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THE WEEK'S
BEST

Sound Bites



TWEET OF THE WEEK

Literally just yelled "STOP!!!" at my phone when I got a text. Like it's Siris fault I'm so popular and pretty.
@GabbySidibe

"Sesame Street announced that they have fired several of their longtime cast members. These layoffs were brought to you by the letters F and U."

—Conan O'Brien on *Conan*

"I can't make love till I've decided who to vote for!"

—Marge Simpson in a pro-Hillary online-only clip from *The Simpsons*

"Told you he was a white guy."

—Tulip (Ruth Negga) to Jesse (Dominic Cooper), when God appears, on *Preacher*

"I'm going to wake up every morning and choose you over and over and over again till you tell me I can't."

—Jordan, proposing to JoJo, on *The Bachelorette*

"Bugs, you've met your match."

—Laurel (Mary Elizabeth Winstead) on *BrainDead*

"As a former teen, a while ago, who's made a few choices along the way, I'm here to tell you that you and your choices matter."

—Justin Timberlake, accepting the Decade Award, at the Teen Choice Awards



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Singers, Zingers & Right-Wingers

After eight days of speeches, balloon drops, and celebrities of questionable merit, the Republican and Democratic conventions are finally over. Here's EW's countdown of the 10 most memorable pop culture moments.

BY SHIRLEY LI

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The Happy Issue: Kevin Hart

The actor-comedian is having the best year of his life. How grit, wit, and gumption helped Hart master Hollywood on his own terms.

BY LEAH GREENBLATT
PLUS Our 50 entertainment pick-me-ups to guarantee instant grins and warm-fuzzy feels.

34

The Get Down

Baz Luhrmann exuberantly explores hip-hop's birth in his series debut for Netflix.

BY TIM STACK

38

TV Goes Back to Work

It may still be summer, but for most of our favorite shows, that means it's time to get back to set.

Viola Davis on the L.A. set of *How to Get Away With Murder* on July 12, 2016

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The world goes Potter crazy (again)...

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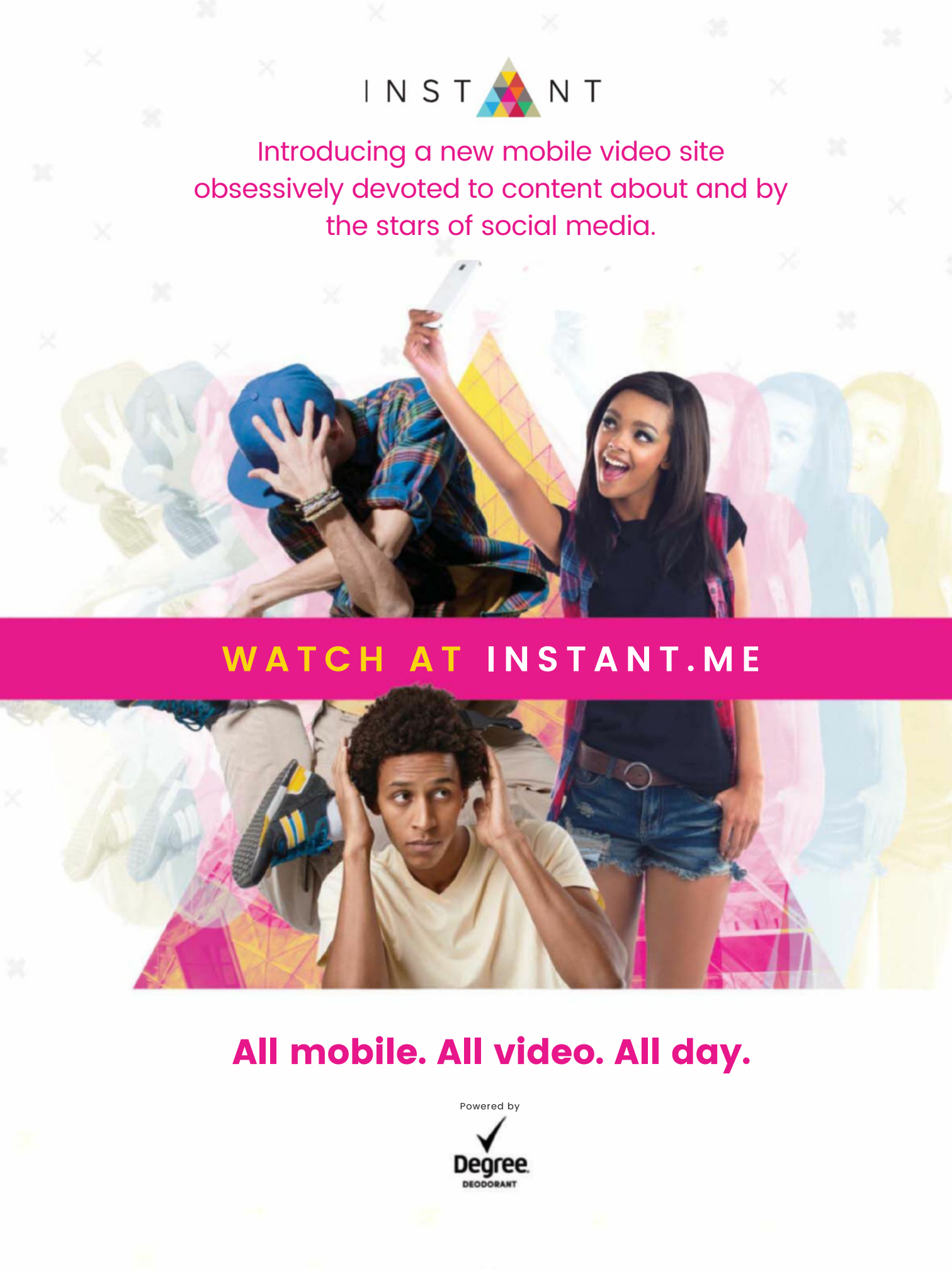
ON THE COVER

Kevin Hart photographed exclusively for EW by Art Streiber on July 23, 2016, in Los Angeles. Illustration by Zohar Lazar.

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News ⚡ Notes

SPOILER ALERT

Pottermania Is Back!

With *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* on the stage and in bookstores, J.K. Rowling conjures a new wizarding generation—and new dark forces. We sort the five most surprising revelations. By James Hibberd



A NEW HARRY POTTER TALE.

Record presales. Midnight release parties. Did somebody use a Time-Turner to send us back a decade? Not quite, but after weeks of relatively low-key previews on London's West End, *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child: Parts One and Two* revealed itself in a big way last week with a surge of glowing reviews (ours included—see page 12) and the July 31 publication of the play's script by theater veterans Jack Thorne and John Tiffany, based on a story by J.K. Rowling. An incredible 4.5 million copies were printed for the U.S. alone, which must be the first time a stage production's rehearsal script has ever become a national best-seller. (Not to mention it's Amazon's top preorder since 2007's *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*.)



HOGWARTS: THE NEW CLASS

Meet the Potterverse's
fresh faces introduced
in the play



Albus Potter
Harry and Ginny's
rebellious middle son
increasingly resents his
father's perfect image.



Scorpius Malfoy
A geeky outcast, Draco's
son strikes up an unlikely
friendship with Albus.



Rose Granger-Weasley
Hermione and Ron's
daughter tries mightily to
warn Albus away from
befriending Scorpius.



Delphi Diggory
Amos Diggory's fetching
niece and caretaker—
whom Albus develops
a major crush on.



(Clockwise from far left) Poppy Miller
and Jamie Parker on stage; a *Cursed Child*
release party in Florida; Anthony Boyle and
Sam Clemmett in the play

1

ALBUS GETS SORTED INTO SLYTHERIN

This is precisely what Albus Potter feared in the epilogue of *Deathly Hallows* as he prepared to charge Platform 9¾. Sure, the Hogwarts house that spawned Voldemort isn't technically evil (Severus Snape proved that), but Slytherin is associated with all manner of Dark Arts and day-to-day jerkish hallway behavior. What with young Albus being the son of heroic Gryffindor's most famous graduate, plenty of awkwardness ensues. (It would be like Obama's daughters campaigning for the GOP.)

2

ALBUS AND SCORPIUS BECOME BEST FRIENDS

Despite Hermione and Ron's daughter Rose's best efforts, Albus quickly bonds with Draco's son aboard the Hogwarts Express, and they're soon inseparable. It seems they're both struggling under the weight of their parents' reputations and even their own names—geeky outcast Scorpius doesn't want to sting anybody, while Albus is neither as wise as his namesake Dumbledore (at one point Portrait Dumbledore quips that Harry really

The *Cursed Child* fervor comes amid rising interest in another Potterverse project: the America-set spin-off movie *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*, starring Eddie Redmayne, which dropped a dark new trailer at Comic-Con ahead of its Nov. 18 release. Between that film and the play, the world of Harry Potter is alive in a way it hasn't been in nearly 10 years: Call it the Phenomenon That Lived.

Opening with the "19 Years Later" epilogue from *Deathly Hallows*—where the grown-up

Harry, Ron, and Hermione reunite on Platform 9¾ to send their kids off to Hogwarts—*Cursed Child* focuses on the dramatic growing pains of Harry's middle son, Albus, and Draco Malfoy's son Scorpius. We've sworn an Unbreakable Vow to protect the tale's biggest twists (of which there are many), but below are five surprising revelations that set the story in motion. So climb aboard the Hogwarts Express, score some Jelly Slugs from the Trolley Witch, and check out the latest *Daily Prophet* headlines.



(Clockwise from above) *Cursed Child* opening night at London's Palace Theatre; the queue outside a London bookshop; a book launch party in Chennai, India



set the poor kid up with that moniker) nor as capable at Quidditch as his dad. (No future Seeker here.)

3

VOLDMORT MIGHT HAVE A KID TOO

Cursed Child explores the difficult relationship between parents and children, so it's fitting that there's a scandalous rumor going around that the Dark Lord might also be a dad—to Scorpius. The theory is that after the Battle of Hogwarts, Draco's wife, Astoria, used a special Time-Turner to travel back to when Voldemort was still alive to commit, um, *prior fornicatio*. Scorpius isn't very happy about this rumor. And as you can imagine, Draco is even less so. Speaking of which...

4

CURSED CHILD IS A TIME-TRAVEL STORY

A Time-Turner is stolen from the Ministry of Magic that—like the one in the rumor about Scorpius' parentage—can send wizards back years instead of a single hour. Albus, increasingly resentful of his father's insurmountable legacy, concocts a bold and dangerous plan to go back in time with Scorpius to Harry's fourth year (a.k.a. *The Goblet of Fire*) and fix what he sees as his dad's biggest screwup. The device allows fresh could-have-been scenes with

fan-favorite characters (Severus Snape!), but as always, when you mess with time travel, things go awry. What happens next plays like the *Back to the Future II* of the Potterverse—if Biff Tannen were a noseless demagogue. (It's your kids, Harry! Something's gotta be done about your kids!)

5

HARRY'S SCAR IS HURTING AGAIN

Nightmares? Aching scar? Evil creatures gathering? Check, check, check. All signs are pointing to Voldemort's return, and Harry is warned there's a "dark cloud" surrounding Albus. But perhaps more striking are Harry's imperfect parenting skills. Drowning in paperwork at the Ministry of Magic under his tough minister boss (Hermione!), Harry's mounting parental frustration causes him to angrily tell Albus that he wishes the kid wasn't his son (the audience gasped at that one). Advises Draco: "People say parenting is the hardest job. It's not. Growing up is." Draco Malfoy as the voice of reason? That may be the biggest shock of all.

So...Is It Any Good?



The Play

Harry Potter and the Cursed Child pulled off a transfiguration challenge worthy of Professor McGonagall: converting the magic-filled world of Harry Potter into a stage production. With the two-part play clocking in at nearly five hours, the *Cursed Child* cast become nimble amateur magicians, deftly using sleight-of-hand, trap doors, wire flight, quick change, and smoke and mirrors galore to spin an ambitious time-travel tale (just don't expect to see, say, Quidditch). "Everyone's staring at us again," young Albus Potter says nervously. Better get used to it, kid. **A-**

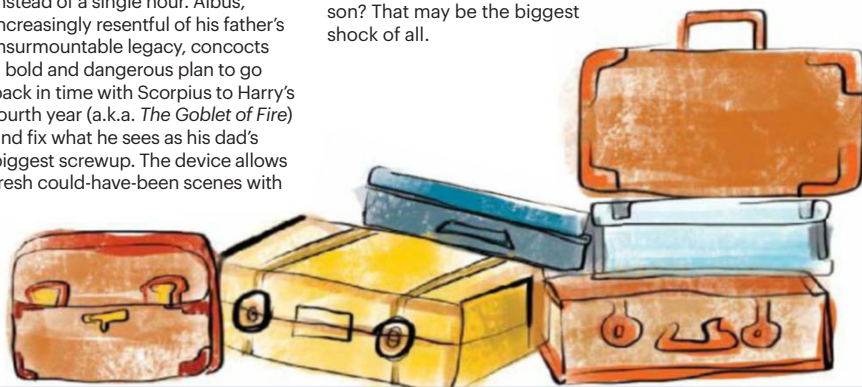
—James Hibberd



The Book

Rowling's adventures have always stretched the imagination, and *Cursed Child*, a byzantine story of time travel and growing pains, delivers all the clever, cerebral thrills we've come to demand of a Potter tale. The form challenges readers to take a more active role in absorbing the text as a stage play, thereby performing and imagining Rowling's characters like never before. *Cursed Child* is a manic exercise in fan service, and a strange experience in sequels, but it's a beast that Rowling has taught her fans to conquer. **A**

—Marc Snetiker





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JOCK JAMS

What tunes get an Olympian pumped up? America's top athletes help compile a gold-medal-worthy playlist for a trip to Rio...or the treadmill.



Jordan Burroughs (Wrestling)

"DON'T LET ME DOWN," THE CHAINSMOKERS FEAT. DAYA

"[This is one of] the most recent songs I downloaded. I'm really getting into electronic. I really like a lot of the more popular DJs now creating good tempos."



Miles Chamley-Watson (Fencing)

"NEW LEVEL," A\$AP FERG FEAT. FUTURE

"A\$AP Ferg is my friend, but also I like the beat. [It] gets me in the zone and makes me feel like I can do anything."



Aly Raisman (Gymnastics)

"REWIND," RASCAL FLATTS

"This song has been out for a while, but I love country music. It makes me feel happy and calm."



Tom Shields (Swimming)

"THE KIDS AREN'T ALRIGHT," THE OFFSPRING

"Whenever I hear that song, I appreciate how lucky [I am], I think, to have missed a couple steps along the way that could've led me afoul or astray from the path that I'm on. And how fickle it is. And it grounds me, to be appreciative of the things I have."

Reporting by Breanne Heldman, Ruth Kinane, and Adam Lujan

EW MORE ON EW.COM
Get full playlists and follow all of our Olympics coverage

Neil, Kimberly, and Reid Perry



The Band Perry Take Rio

Singer **Kimberly Perry** dishes on performing with her brothers on *Today's* Olympics broadcast (Aug. 11), plus the group's new single and what to expect from their third LP. **BY MADISON VAIN**

"Live Forever" is the official Team USA song. How did you guys react to the news?

The U.S. Olympic Committee called the night before we performed the song on the *Today* show, and it involved some jumping up and down, maybe some shouting in the hotel—then we got embarrassed that we were being too loud. [Laughs]

You'll also be performing in Rio for the Olympics. Did concerns over the Zika virus give you any pause?

Absolutely. We've been keeping an eye on that for the past few months, and a couple guys in our band and crew whose wives are pregnant are sitting this one out. But the only baby in the future of the Band Perry is our album, so we're pretty safe for the time being.

If you could compete in any Olympic event, which would you choose?

If I were even remotely athletic, I'd want to be a gymnast and do the floor routine. I love that.

You just released a new single, "Comeback Kid." What does this song mean to the band?

If you've followed our story, you know that we've gone through quite a transition. [The group split from Big Machine and signed with Mercury Nashville/Interscope this year.] And there were a lot of voices trying to tell their version of our story, so "Comeback Kid" is the live narrative of what we were thinking and feeling during those months.

What do you feel was most misconstrued?

There was this notion that the Band Perry was done with

country radio and country fans. Never did we say that—they've been too good to us.

You're working on the band's third LP now. How's it going?

The music is finished. It's sort of like, however the first single goes, so goes the album release. So if we start moving quickly, then the album is right around the corner. We hope to at least have pre-order up by the holidays.

What can you tell us about the music?

The sentiment that we're all on this crazy journey of life together—that's a big [theme] that runs through the album.

The TODAY show is teaming up with EW for a backstage pass to the "Citi Concert Series on TODAY" with exclusive Q&A's in the magazine and on EW.com. Catch the Band Perry on NBC Aug. 11.

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GILMORE GIRLS: EVERYTHING WE KNOW SO FAR

Fans got their first taste of the Netflix revival last week thanks to a new trailer, complete with coffee, Pop-Tarts, and pop culture references aplenty (hey, Amy Schumer!). Here, a Stars Hollow road map ahead of the series' Nov. 25 return. **BY SAMANTHA HIGHFILL**

▼ THE FORMAT

Netflix will release four 90-minute movies spanning a year, with each reflecting a season, hence the project's official title, *Gilmore Girls: A Year in the Life*. The revival will kick off with the season that Lorelai (Lauren Graham) can always smell coming—winter.

▼ THEIR LOVE LIVES

A Year in the Life might pick up with a single Rory (Alexis Bledel), but there's no telling how it will end considering all three of her ex-boyfriends—Logan (Matt Czuchry), Dean (Jared Padalecki), and Jess (Milo Ventimiglia)—will be popping in. Lorelai, however, seemingly has eyes for just one man: She's back together with Luke (Scott Patterson).

▼ NEW AND RETURNING FACES

Not only are Rory's beaux back, but Melissa McCarthy's peppy chef Sookie will also make an appearance. And in terms of new faces, *Bunheads* alum Sutton Foster is participating in a Stars Hollow musical—whatever that means. And for *Parenthood* fans, worlds will collide when Graham's (other) onscreen daughter Mae Whitman makes a cameo.

▼ ONE NOTABLE ABSENCE

Edward Herrmann, who played stalwart patriarch Richard Gilmore, died in 2014, and his passing will be a central focus of the narrative. "In the wake of losing Ed, [what] was also part of [the] story that we were telling was the journey of how everyone is recovering," Graham said during the show's Television Critics Association panel. "That gave the show a depth and an emotional complexity that felt to me like, here's the show grown up even more."

▼ THOSE FINAL FOUR WORDS

Gilmore Girls creator Amy Sherman-Palladino left after season 6, which meant she wasn't around to craft the episode that became the series finale. Still, she has long claimed that she always knew how she would have ended the show, down to the final four words uttered on screen. She's remained tight-lipped as to what exactly those four words were, but now we'll finally get to see them play out. According to Graham, the ending involves an exchange, and let's be real, there's at least a 50 percent chance it's "Coffee coffee?" "Coffee coffee!"



TV'S TASTIEST TEASES

Ahead of our annual Fall TV Preview issue (on stands Sept. 9), we're dishing up all the deets on your favorite shows.

Check out a few new scoops below and head over to ew.com/50-scoops-50-days for all the rest! **BY LYNETTE RICE**



MOM

ROSIE THE RETURNER

Welcome back, Rosie O'Donnell! The former talk-show host will reprise her role as Jeanine, the ex-girlfriend of Bonnie (Allison Janney), on *Mom* in the upcoming season. The comedy, also starring Anna Faris, returns for a fourth season Oct. 27 on CBS.



HOW TO GET AWAY WITH MURDER

ESAI COURTS KEATING AND ASSOCIATES

Esai Morales is joining the cast of *How to Get Away With Murder* in what ABC describes as a "very important role." The veteran TV and film actor (*Bad Boys*, *NYPD Blue*) is expected to recur on the Viola Davis starrer, which returns for a third season on Sept. 22.

SCREAM QUEENS! BLACKLIST! AND MORE!

A FEW SCOOPS WE ALREADY SERVED UP...

Jerry O'Connell is joining Fox's *Scream Queens* in a mystery role.... *Outlander* star Lotte Verbeek will return to NBC's *Blacklist* this season to play Liz Keen's mom.... Morgan Freeman will don the black robe again as Chief Justice Wilbourne in the third-season premiere of CBS' *Madam Secretary*.



◀
Liz Torres,
Sally
Struthers,
Alexis
Bledel,
and Lauren
Graham



Kesha's Key Change

The "TiK Tok" singer's stalled music career might be revving back up as she drops a lawsuit against Dr. Luke and readies close to 30 new songs. **BY NOLAN FEENEY**

● ● ●
The prolonged legal battle between Kesha and pop producer Dr. Luke (real name: Lukasz Gottwald) just took another turn. On Aug. 1, Kesha's attorney announced that the pop star was beginning to work on a new album—her first since 2012—and dropping her California lawsuit against Gottwald, whom she accused in 2014 of sexual assault and abuse. (Gottwald has long denied the allegations.) "This lawsuit is so heavy on my once free spirit," Kesha wrote on Facebook. So what's next for the singer?

She isn't done with lawsuits yet

Though she has dropped the California lawsuit, she is still pursuing legal action in New York to terminate her contract with Gottwald. "I am continuing to fight for my rights," she explained on Facebook. Gottwald also has active defamation and breach-of-contract claims against her.

She's hitting the road

Kesha played three concerts in Las Vegas earlier this summer, and she has more than a dozen shows scheduled between

now and October. However, EW has learned she won't be playing new tunes on tour.

She hopes to drop an album soon

Kesha recently turned in 28 new songs to Gottwald's Kemosabe Records. A source tells EW that the tracks are "in various stages of development" and were produced "at her own expense." She's hoping to share the results sooner rather than later: "Kesha's goal is to get new music out sometime within the next few months," says the source.



A Rosy Outlook for *The Bachelorette*

Newly engaged couple JoJo Fletcher and Jordan Rodgers talk exclusively to *People* (on stands now) about their happily-ever-after.

BY SAMANTHA HIGHFILL

After having her heart broken by Ben Higgins on *The Bachelor*, JoJo Fletcher began her journey to find love anew on *The Bachelorette*. And little did she know that the very first guy out of the limo—Jordan Rodgers—would be the one.

Now fresh off the Aug. 1 finale, the couple tell *People* that they're happier than ever. "These last couple of months have only proved that choosing Jordan was the best decision I've ever made," Fletcher says.

As hard as it was for her to turn down runner-up Robby Hayes, she says that in hindsight "everything happened the way it was supposed to.... Robby is a man I loved for the person he is and how he treated me. But I was madly in love with Jordan. I couldn't imagine saying goodbye to him. That's how I knew."

And those rumors about Rodgers' true intentions? The couple say that he's as genuine as his jeans are skinny and reveal they're planning a 2017 wedding. Here's hoping Chad Johnson (and his meat plate) gets an invite.

RESIDENT EVIL'S LAST STAND

The long-running film franchise starring Milla Jovovich closes its *Final Chapter* on Jan. 27.

BY OLIVER GETTELL

Since *Resident Evil* made the leap from console to big screen 14 years ago, the action franchise has proved harder to keep down than a t-Virus-infected zombie. With the sixth film, *Resident Evil: The Final Chapter*, writer-director Paul W.S. Anderson is finally providing answers about Milla Jovovich's amnesiac heroine, Alice. "[It's] almost like an origin story because we're revealing the truth as to who Alice is," he says, adding that fans can expect a full-circle return to Raccoon City and the Hive, where it all began. Once that circle is complete? Then it truly is game over.



AMERICAN
VOICES

The diverse actors who are
changing pop culture

An Epic Star Rises

She ruled on *Homeland* and *Scandal*. Now Iranian-born actress **Nazanin Boniadi** conquers the big screen in the new remake of *Ben-Hur* (out Aug. 19). BY NINA TERRERO

▷ CHILD OF THE REVOLUTION

Born in Tehran in the aftermath of the Iranian revolution, Nazanin Boniadi was just 20 days old when her parents immigrated to London in 1980. "They were forced to flee," she says. "My parents didn't want to raise their daughter in a place that was growing increasingly oppressive towards women and girls." Boniadi channels her independent streak as *Ben-Hur*'s Esther, the courageous wife of the titular Jerusalem prince Judah Ben-Hur (Jack Huston). "She really is a moral compass in the film," the 37-year-old says. "She pulls Judah through."

▷ NIGHT NURSE

After graduating with honors in biology from the University of California, Irvine, Boniadi swapped the security of a medical career for her dream of becoming an actor. "Luckily, nine months after I made that decision, I got my SAG card," she says. She landed her first role as a nurse on the soap opera *General Hospital: The Night Shift*. Since then, she's played a seductive terrorist on *Scandal*, a clever CIA analyst on *Homeland*, and a charming girl next door on *How I Met Your Mother*. She prides herself on being able to move between genres and mediums—and hopes Hollywood will one day make it easier for other actors of color to do so. "I'm grateful for every Middle Eastern role I've done," she says. "But it's very limiting when people only look at you for your skin color."

▷ OLD SOUL

Ben-Hur fulfilled a lifetime wish for Boniadi, who has always wanted to make a film about the ancient world. "It was on my bucket list to do a period piece set in that era," she says. "I feel really connected to antiquity for some reason." An added bonus: picking up horseback-riding skills and a renewed appreciation for Roman cuisine. Says Boniadi, laughing, "When we wrapped, I binged on all the wine and pasta and cappuccinos and gelato."

▷ CHANGE AGENT

"I entered the acting world at a time when there was a higher demand for Middle Eastern actors in the post-9/11 world, and yeah, the roles weren't great," Boniadi says. Most parts were one-dimensional, or sinister, or both. "But when that one interesting role did come along, I was ready to win it." Her latest victory? A starring role opposite Armie Hammer and Dev Patel in *Hotel Mumbai*, a dramatization of the 2008 terrorist attacks in India that killed 164 people. "I've hit my stride," she says.

MORE VOICES

To read all of these profiles, go to
time.com/americanvoices



▲ With Jack Huston in *Ben-Hur*

“MY WISH IS TO BE A
HOLLYWOOD STUNT DRIVER.”



THE 2017 CAMRY

With an available sport-tuned suspension, Camry can handle the boldest of wishes.

Professional driver on closed course. Do not attempt. Prototype shown with options. Production model will vary. ©2016 Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc.



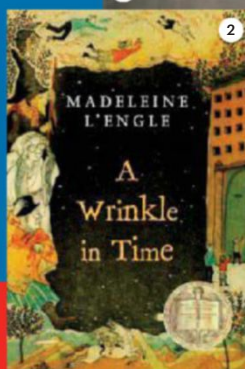
Let's
Go
Places

Singers, Zingers & Right-Wingers

After eight days of speeches, balloon drops, and celebrities of questionable merit (we see you, Baio), the Republican and Democratic conventions are finally over. Here's EW's countdown of the 10 most memorable pop culture moments. *By Shirley Li*



1



2



3

4



"WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS NOW IS LOVE"

The sweetest convention moment came during a song, not a speech: In a tribute to gun-violence victims, a star-studded lineup of Broadway's best (including Darren Criss, Audra McDonald, Idina Menzel, Debra Messing, and Michael Urie) sang of love, sweet love at the DNC—a simple message that's neither red nor blue.



CHELSEA CLINTON'S TIME

The former (and possibly future) First Daughter squeezed in references to *Police Academy*, *Goodnight Moon*, and *A Wrinkle in Time* in an anecdote-filled speech that caused Madeleine L'Engle's 1962 novel to shoot up Amazon's sales charts. Meg Murry would approve.



PARODY LINES

The lack of Republican star power didn't stop the Trump family from bringing some showbiz flair. After Melania dominated headlines with her rousing speech—albeit one that plagiarized Michelle Obama's—it was enthusiastically mocked by actress Laura Benanti (*Supergirl*) in a flawless impression on *The Late Show With Stephen Colbert*. Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, right?



A BANKS-Y NIGHT

If Rachel Platten's "Fight Song" is still stuck in your head, thank *Pitch Perfect* actress Elizabeth Banks, who not only parodied Trump's smoke-machine-assisted entrance but also enlisted celebrity pals like Jane Fonda, Mandy Moore, and Sia to contribute to an a cappella rendition of the Clinton campaign's unofficial anthem. Good luck getting rid of that earworm.

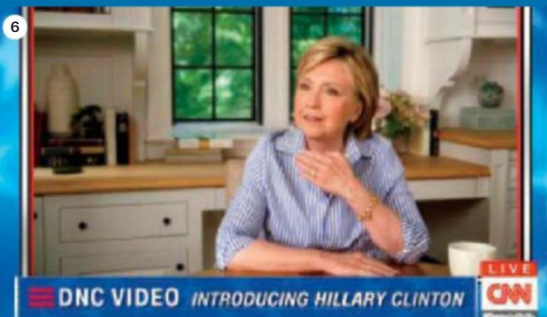


KATY-IN-CHIEF

Katy Perry loves Hillary Clinton as much as, say, Bill Clinton loves balloons. The pop star endorsed the Clinton campaign in October and has performed at fund-raisers in Iowa and New York, landing her a prime-time slot at the convention to sing "Rise" and "Roar." (Left Shark failed to make an appearance. Sad!)



5



6



9



7



8



10



HOLLYWOOD HILL

Even *more* A-listers contributed to the DNC, adding a cinematic touch. J.J. Abrams produced a two-minute Michelle Obama intro, Shonda Rhimes created a biographical look at Hillary Clinton narrated by Morgan Freeman, and James Cameron took on climate change with Sigourney Weaver. Now, could someone make a doc on Meryl Streep's star-spangled shirt?



#HAMILTONS-WITHER

In her acceptance speech, Hillary Clinton quoted "The Story of Tonight" from Lin-Manuel Miranda's ubiquitous Tony-winning musical—and drew a response from Miranda himself, who happened to be on vacation. "I'm with her," he tweeted. In other Hamil-tune words, history is happening—just in Philly, not Manhattan.



GATHERIN' MOSS

After Trump's super-size speech (the longest since 1972), the Republican convention dropped balloons to the Rolling Stones' "You Can't Always Get What You Want," despite the band previously protesting the track's use by the campaign. Online chatter focused on the irony of playing that particular song at the end of a contentious convention. Maybe they should have used "Satisfaction" instead?



SILVERMAN OR BUST

Meanwhile, at the Democratic convention, comedian and Bernie Sanders diehard Sarah Silverman chastised her fellow Sanders supporters by calling them "ridiculous" for refusing to unite with Clinton fans. She then introduced Paul Simon, who performed "Bridge Over Troubled Water." Ironic song choices: not just for the RNC.



DON'T BAIO, VOTE

The *Happy Days* star showed up to stump for Trump with the speech-ending statement "Make America *America* again." Twisting the candidate's official campaign slogan? Not cool, Chachi!



KEVIN HART
photographed on
July 23, 2016,
in Los Angeles

★ THE HAPPY ISSUE ★

KEVIN HART'S

STUPENDOUS SPECTACULAR GUIDE TO HAPPINESS

HE'S HAVING THE BEST YEAR OF HIS LIFE, WITH THREE HIT MOVIES AND A STAND-UP FILM, *WHAT NOW?*, ON THE WAY. HOW GRIT, WIT, AND GUMPTION HELPED **KEVIN HART** MASTER HOLLYWOOD ON HIS OWN TERMS.

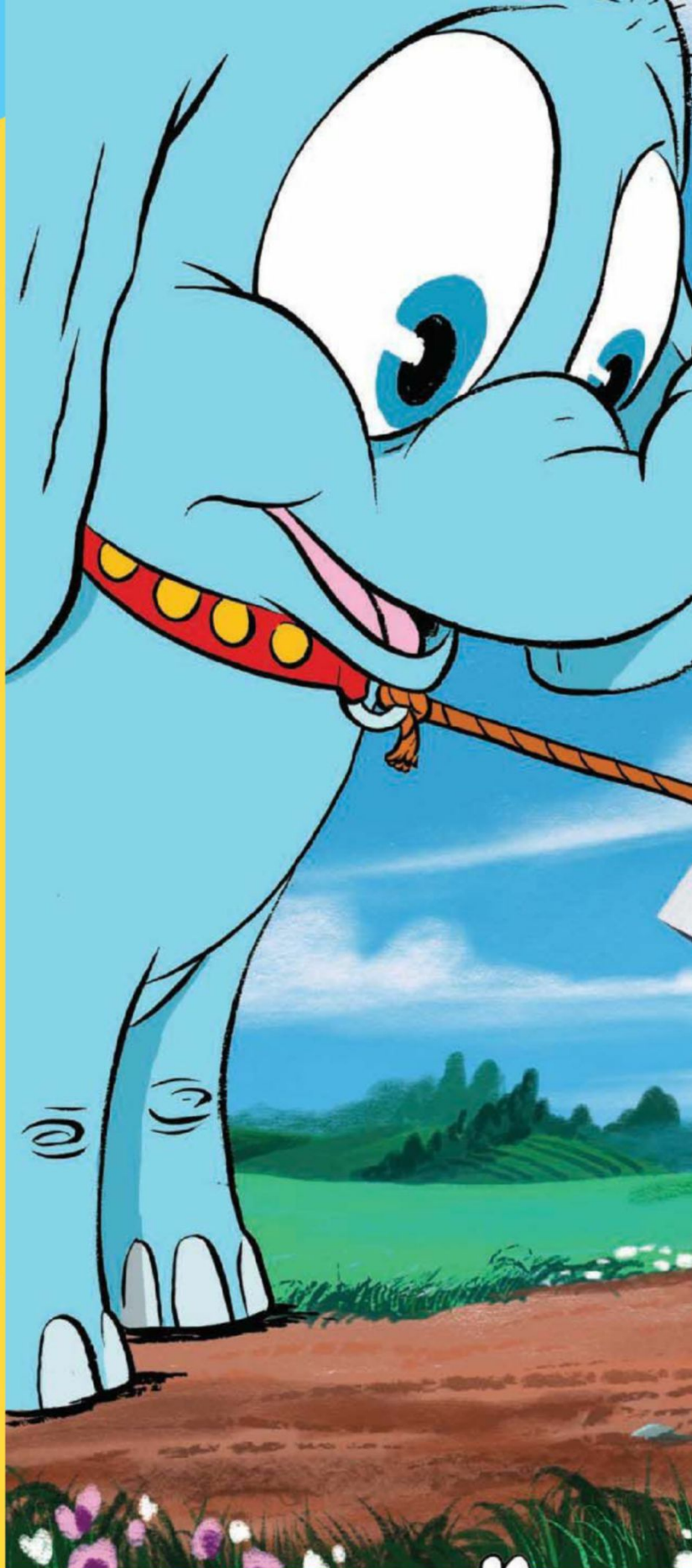
BY LEAH GREENBLATT @LEAHBATS ♦ PHOTOGRAPHS BY ART STREIBER ♦ ILLUSTRATIONS BY ZOHAR LAZAR

<Page>

23



➡ Kevin Hart is the tallest guy in the room right now—by about eight feet, give or take, depending on the altitude of his next bounce. “Happy! Happy! Happy!” he shouts rhythmically as the camera shutter clicks, his body torquing up and away from the industrial-grade trampoline that



WHAT MAKES KEVIN HART HAPPY?

HAMMER TIME AND HAND MODELING: THESE ARE A FEW OF HIS FAVORITE THINGS

HAPPY ALBUM

Michael Jackson's *Thriller*.

Happy, sexy, vibrant.

Start to finish, it covers all aspects of feeling good. [Singing] "P.Y.T."

HAPPY SONG

MC Hammer,

"Too Legit to Quit."

HAPPY FOOD

This is going to come off as a shocker: **chicken**. That's right, I'm a black guy that loves chicken. Buffalo wing flats. That's how much I love chicken. I created the name for the pieces that I like. Flats.

HAPPY ANIMAL

A white rabbit that has an attitude—and a promising career in show business. You can actually catch this particular rabbit in *The Secret Life of Pets*. And his name is Snowball.

HAPPY MOVIE

It's *Thinking Like a Man While Riding Along, Looking for a Wedding Ringer About Last Night on the Base of Central Intelligence With a Big Soul Plane That Takes You to a Magical World of Jumanji Only to Find the Secret Life of Pets...Where You Get Hard*. That's the title.

HAPPY WORD

Petite.

I don't know why, but *petite* is a very happy word.

HAPPY TIME OF DAY

The morning. Early morning, not mid-morning. When I get up, at 5:36 a.m., I feel like I've gotten up before everybody else, like I have an advantage on my day. I feel like I'm maximizing my full 24 hours.

HAPPY JOB

Hand modeling makes me smile like no tomorrow. Like this: "Hey, would you like this ketchup?" Or, "A brand-new car!" Literally, nothing beats this. I'm just really good at it.

HAPPY PRAISE

A compliment that makes me happy? "Hey! Somebody's been working on their shins!" Yeah. That's a good one for me.

EW has rented for his carnival-themed cover shoot. But even when he climbs down to prep for the next setup, the gravity of the room follows him. He's a contained hurricane of energy, his grin blazing and hips popping to the thump of Trey Songz on the stereo as he vamps and poses, pausing every few minutes to regale the crew with stories, silly voices, and mock-serious directives. ("Make sure you get my hair so it blows back," he instructs an assistant manning a giant fan, patting playfully at his close-cropped fade. "Ask me why I'm so excited!" he commands another.) They all smile back, looking dazzled and a little bit stunned, like someone just handed them a baby unicorn or free tickets to *Hamilton*.

Afterward, though, when he sits down for a one-on-one, a different Hart emerges: focused and deliberate, unspooling his thoughts on finding his way in the industry and living his best life with almost Oprah-like intensity. (She's a friend, it turns out; but more on that later.) It gets said a lot that comedy comes from a dark place—Hart even has a 2011 stand-up movie called *Laugh at My Pain*—and at 37 he's endured more loss and hardship than most people, but he gives off none of the sourness or cynicism that so many other comedians wear like a wet sweater off stage. "You'll never see me coming from a place of anger, a place of sad," he says. "You won't see me vent about stuff or let the business or people get the best of me."

That's why he likes to refer to himself as "King Positivity," and it has served him well; after years of struggling on the perimeter, he's become one of the few sure things in Hollywood. His three films so far this year—*Ride Along 2*, *Central Intelligence*, and *The Secret Life of Pets*—have already earned more than half a billion dollars combined domestically; his third feature-length stand-up, *What Now?*, is due in theaters in October; and his 95 million followers on social media put him in the rarefied realm of global pop stars, U.S. presidents, and ridiculously good-looking soccer players.

(PHOTO SHOOT) STYLING: ASHLEY NORTH; GROOMING: JOHN CLAUSELL; PROP STYLING: ANTHONY ALTOMARE; SUIT, SHIRT, TOP, SHOE: TIE: RALPH LAUREN; SHOES: LANVIN

If you're one of those millions, you rarely need to wonder what he's up to: Hart posts almost every public and private moment—the late-night shoots and early-morning workouts, the press junkets and poolside dance parties—like a sort of voluntary online *Truman Show*. “The day of the star just being on a billboard or doing a talk show and then you’re gonna go see his movie is over. It’s over,” he says. “Why not let people see you work hard? Why not let people see you in a meeting? Why not let people see how much promotion goes into a movie launch? When they see it, they have a different appreciation for what you do.”

He also uses socials to connect in more immediate ways—buying out a local showing of one of his movies on Father’s Day, say, and giving the tickets away to the first 600 responders, or asking fans to join him on the 5K runs he’s led in more than a dozen cities now. (He’s big on preaching health and fitness by example, and his etched six-pack tells the tale.)

If anything, though, Twitter and Instagram are merely amplifiers for the truths he’s always put out there. His stand-up routines frequently come laced with unfiltered details of his autobiography: being raised by his tough but loving single mom, Nancy, in North Philadelphia and losing her to cancer in 2007 (he still calls her “my heart”); reconnecting with his father, who struggled with addiction throughout Hart’s childhood; the mistakes he made in his first



CLOCKWISE
FROM TOP

In the upcoming
**Kevin Hart:
What Now?**; with
Oprah Winfrey in
2014; with his kids
and fiancée **Eniko
Parrish** at the
**2016 MTV Movie
Awards**, which
he cohosted

marriage, to ex Torrei Hart, which ended in 2011; the perils of bringing up their two young kids in the bizarre, light-years-from-Philly privilege of Los Angeles.

Having a famous dad means daughter Heaven, 11, and son Hendrix, 8, get to do fun stuff like sit front-row with him at Clippers games or join him on stage at awards shows. But Hart also goes in big for Monday Movie Nights and Taco Tuesdays, and is a strict taskmaster when it comes to schoolwork and chores. “Regardless of my level of success, I don’t ever want to lose the family feeling of a home,” he says. “I don’t want to be in a mansion where I have to find my kids on the east wing. I want to sit on the couch and be able to yell into the kitchen, ‘Hey, come on, let’s go outside and ride a bike!’ I like two dogs, I like a fence. I don’t need no dolphins. I don’t need a shark in my shark tank.”

THE \$1 BILLION MAN

THESE 5 RECENT HITS



Ride Along (2014)
\$154 MILLION



Get Hard (2015)
\$112 MILLION



Ride Along 2 (2016)
\$124 MILLION

**"I DON'T WANT TO BE IN A MANSION
WHERE I HAVE TO FIND MY KIDS ON THE EAST
WING. I DON'T EVER WANT TO
LOSE THE FEELING OF A HOME.
I LIKE TWO DOGS, I LIKE A FENCE.
I DON'T NEED A SHARK IN MY SHARK TANK."**



His career outlook is equally streamlined: "My drive and my push and my competition is me. I don't care what the next man is doing, or the next woman, or the next studio." Not that he doesn't sometimes lean on famous friends for advice. "Chris Rock and Jay Z, those are my two guys," he says. "But I don't want to abuse it. I'll only call them when I'm really like, 'Hey, man, I need some answers.'"

He also volunteers, not unseriously, that if he were ever to get another tattoo, it would be some words of wisdom Oprah Winfrey once gave him about the constant fight to be the best version of yourself. And when controversy erupted earlier this year over the lack of black actors nominated for Academy Awards, he stuck firmly to his strict no-complaints policy. "These are real problems," he says. "But I'm not gonna go and bark and gripe and bring more attention to them. I'm gonna try to break down some doors so I can be an example. I mean, in the heart of all of this [#OscarsSoWhite] stuff, me and Ice Cube had a number-one movie overseas!" (His *Ride Along* part, in fact, was originally slated to go to Ryan Reynolds, with Dwayne Johnson in Cube's role.) "Let's just be groundbreakers," he continues. "Let's figure out a way to get a studio to believe in us and bring this vision into reality."

If Hart sometimes sounds a little like a motivational speaker when he talks about overcoming obstacles with positive thinking or practicing "constructive self-criticism," it's hard to doubt his sincerity. Or the results: After landing his first major clothing campaign last year—an inspired odd-couple pairing with David Beckham for H&M menswear that they'll reprise this fall—the 5-foot-5 former shoe salesman became the first-ever comedian to ink an endorsement

deal with Nike. (It's worth watching the promo videos for his training-app workout with Serena Williams, even if you've never done a jump squat and don't plan to start.) He's also the CEO of his own digital network, a VOD comedy hub called Laugh Out Loud set to launch this fall, and his raft of upcoming film projects includes a *Jumanji* update with his *Central Intelligence* costar Johnson, a remake of the acclaimed 2011 French dramedy *The Intouchables* with Bryan Cranston, and the DreamWorks animated film *Captain Underpants*, as well as the fifth season of his reality spoof *Real Husbands of Hollywood* on BET and a memoir, due in 2017. Somewhere in there he'll wedge in his wedding to fiancée Eniko Parrish, which, at press time, was scheduled to take place Aug. 8.

With all that on the docket, it's hard not to ask: Does his inner Tony Robbins ever let him down? Does he sometimes just want to let himself scream at a slow-moving gaffer on set, or skip one of those 5K runs and go back to sleep instead? "Listen, emotions will get the best of you in this business," he says. "You have to always be sharp, and that means you have to leave your feelings at the door. You're gonna hear 'no' a lot more than you're gonna hear 'yes.' Do you feel like you're not worthy? Do you feel like your life isn't complete? It shouldn't matter, because when you hear 'yes' that one time, it's gonna put you in the position to hear 'yes' so many more times. I work hard for that one yes. You can hit me with 75 no's in a row—I'm strong enough to deal with it."

This, as much as the kinetic goofball from the photo shoot, is who he really is: a tremendously shrewd, intensely driven artist who has fought hard for every piece of the dream, against all industry odds. "I've [been told] 'Kevin, you're not right for this role.' 'Kevin, you're not funny enough.' 'Kevin, you're not going to make it.' 'Kevin, I don't see you doing action.' 'Kevin, I don't see you leading a movie by yourself.' 'Kevin, black actors don't make money overseas.' These are all things that I've heard several f---ing times. I'm 20-plus years—years!—in this business. My last six have been successful." He laughs, leaning forward and spreading his palms wide. "And I'm sitting in front of you with a smile." ★

ACCOUNT FOR MORE THAN HALF OF HART'S CAREER BOX OFFICE*



Central Intelligence (2016)
\$203 MILLION



The Secret Life of Pets (2016)
\$403 MILLION



★ THE HAPPY ISSUE ★

HITS

AND

GIGGLES

FEELING HAMMERED BY THE HEADLINES? WHY NOT TAKE A JOYRIDE?
THESE **50 POP CULTURE PICK-ME-UPS** FROM
EW'S STAFF GUARANTEE INSTANT GRINS AND WARM-FUZZY FEELS.



1
MUSIC
**"I STILL HAVEN'T FOUND
WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR"**
U2

► U2's 1987 rock-gospel anthem is my bridge over troubled water, a psalm of reorientation in times of disorientation. It embraces hopeful paradoxes: that doubt

and faith are compatible, that certainty doesn't preclude a constant search for truth. Bono's lyrics and the Edge's church-bell guitar combine to create a bittersweet hymn that calls me to look up when I'm down and keep clear-eyed when I'm fogged. —JEFF JENSEN, *Critic*

2
MOVIE
THE WORLD'S END (2013)

► I'll happily watch any film that features an alien invasion, heavy drinking, British comic actor Nick Frost, or Primal Scream's dance-rock classic "Loaded." A movie that features all four? Now we're talking! —CLARK COLLIS, *Senior Writer*



3
MUSIC
TEENAGE DREAM
KATY PERRY

► When the humidity is high in New York and distracted *Pokémon GO* players are bumping into me on the street, I put in my earbuds and cue up this perfect pop album, and I'm instantly transported to the beach. —TIM STACK, *Senior Writer*

4
TV
FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS
Season 1 • Episode 22

► I'm no football fan, but watching the Panthers win state with that final play and the whole town cheering them on to the sweet, wry strains of Tony Lucca's cover of "Devil Town" can fix the bleakest of moods. —MEETA AGRAWAL, *Deputy Editor*

5
MOVIES
**ROAD HOUSE (1989) AND
POINT BREAK (1991)**

► While his action-movie contemporaries mowed down Russians, Patrick Swayze extolled the merits of being nice (as the world's greatest bouncer) and living life to the fullest (as a surfing bank robber). These are the perfect balance of earnest cheese and fun, two of my favorite movie qualities. —KEVIN P. SULLIVAN, *Staff Editor*



Julie Andrews as the sunniest sister in Salzburg



No



MOVIE

THE SOUND OF MUSIC

➡ It's not just the raindrops on roses and whiskers on kittens—or that underneath her wimple she has curlers in her hair—that I find especially gratifying. It's that in this 1965 classic, the von Trapps are able to escape the Nazis via winning a singing competition.

—BILL KEITH, *Features Editor*

7

TV BEYONCÉ'S BABY-BUMP REVEAL

2011 MTV VIDEO MUSIC AWARDS

➡ "Love on Top" is one of the single best moments in MTV history. There's a purple sequin blazer, a mic drop, cuts to Kanye and Jay Z in pure elation, and Katy Perry dancing with some sort of cheese block affixed to her head. In other words, it's a gigantic win for everyone.

—CAITLIN BRODY, *Senior Editor*



8

MUSIC "CALL ME MAYBE" CARLY RAE JEPSEN

➡ No song in the history of the world better captures that precise moment of infatuation that's all butterflies, rainbows, and blushes. Plus you can dance to it.

—HENRY GOLDBLATT, *Editor in Chief*

9

TV GILMORE GIRLS Season 3 • Episode 7

➡ Lorelai and Rory always hit the spot, and "They Shoot Gilmores, Don't They?" is totally delightful. It centers on Stars Hollow's 24-hour dance marathon, and features lots of mother-daughter bonding and guy drama—the best being Dean breaking up with Rory, making way for bad boy Jess (my favorite love interest of hers). —C. MOLLY SMITH, *Editorial Assistant*



10

STAGE "NON-STOP" HAMILTON ORIGINAL BROADWAY CAST RECORDING

➡ Five words: "Hamilton wrote the other 51!" —KELLY CONNOLLY, *Staff Editor, EW.com Fanwatch Network*

11

VIDEOGAME MARIO KART: DOUBLE DASH!!

➡ This *Super Mario Bros.* offshoot for GameCube is the only constant among the five apartments I've lived in. And when I'm riding the rainbow road with Yoshi in the front seat, I feel invincible. —CARLY KLAIRE, *Designer*

12

BOOK MY FAMILY AND OTHER ANIMALS GERALD DURRELL

➡ I can always cheer myself by basking in the gentle warmth of this hilarious 1956 memoir, which recounts the escapades of an extremely eccentric British family during a five-year sojourn on the Greek island of Corfu in the 1930s.

—TINA JORDAN, *Senior Editor*

13

PODCAST ANNA FARIS IS UNQUALIFIED

➡ I find myself laughing out loud when I listen to the *Mom* star and her guests (like Chelsea Handler, Shaq, and the occasional cameo by husband Chris Pratt). Her quirky humor and candid life advice are the perfect uplifting distraction from the world's somber news cycle. —CRISTINA EVERETT, *Deputy Editor, EW.com*



No
▼

14



PODCAST

RUPAUL: WHAT'S THE TEE? WITH MICHELLE VISAGE

► **Listening to RuPaul** and squirrel friend Visage dish is like eavesdropping on the most fab brunch ever. Whether discussing *Drag Race*, lace-front wigs, or more serious issues like depression and self-esteem, Ru and Michelle always keep it real. And when they inevitably crack each other up, it's impossible not to laugh along. —AARON MORALES, *Senior Associate Art Director*

15

TV
THE WEST WING
Season 2 • Episode 8

► A dream POTUS, Martin Sheen's Josiah Bartlet is in especially rare form in "Shibboleth," welcoming faithful refugees with open arms and acknowledging his love for Charlie with the bestowing of a family heirloom. The juxtaposition of strong moral leadership and moving human

connection is enough to inspire hope for the future. —MADELINE BOARDMAN, *Digital Features Editor*

16

TV
HAPPY ENDINGS' OPENERS

► Six friends, just hanging out at the diner/apartment, swapping punchlines at the speed of light—imagining penguins getting hammered off body shots or

melting down after an oyster-shucking impalement or breezily reminiscing about '90s jam band Barefoot Pedaler!—before a swelling montage of the word "Happy" on T-shirts and cakes and awnings flutters by. The cold opens on this gone-too-soon series are my *Happy* place. —DAN SNIERSON, *Senior Writer*



17

TV
THE CAROL BURNETT SHOW
Season 10 • Episode 8

► In the "Went With the Wind!" sketch, spoiled Southern belle Starlett O'Hara decides to make a dress out of drapes, like Vivien Leigh's Scarlett famously did. But when Starlett appears in her green velvet gown (designed by Bob Mackie), it still has the brass curtain rod running through the shoulders. Burnett masterfully rides the roiling waves of laughter from the live audience before delivering the immortal line "I saw it in the window and I just couldn't resist it." Neither will you. —SEAN SMITH, *Executive Editor*

18

MUSIC
"THUNDER ROAD"
BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN

► From the moment you hear those opening plink-plink piano notes and harmonica whine, how can your heart not quicken with joy? This 1975 track captures that giddy roll-down-the-window-and-let-the-wind-blow-back-your-hair feeling like no other. (Disclaimer: I am from New Jersey.) —SARA VILKOMERSON, *Senior Writer*

19

TV
ARRESTED DEVELOPMENT

► Especially the original seasons. No matter what happens, the show is always there on Netflix to crack me up, even when I'm bluer than Tobias. —RAY RAHMAN, *Staff Writer*

20

TV
THE GREAT BRITISH BAKING SHOW

► It reminds me that there is still kindness to be found. The hosts are charming, the judges are tough but fair, and the contestants are refreshingly normal. As Mary Berry would say, it's positively scrummy. —LAUREN MORGAN, *Associate Photo Editor*

21

MOVIE
HAPPY GILMORE (1996)

► What can I say? I'd watch this movie while making things out of clay, laying by the bay, I just may. —ANDREA ADAMS, *Editorial Manager*

22

BOOK
THE ROYAL WE
HEATHER COCKS AND JESSICA MORGAN

► This Americanized take on Prince William and Kate Middleton's romance has given me an afterglow that's lasted much longer than the tan I got as I tore through it on the beach months ago. —BREANNE L. HELDMAN, *Deputy News Director*





23

VIDEOGAME

THE LEGEND OF ZELDA: OCARINA OF TIME

► Ever since high school, playing this 1998 Nintendo 64 masterpiece has provided the perfect escape from reality—or biology homework. The wonderfully nostalgic graphics, surrounding sounds, and melodies (“Saria’s Song”) transport me to an impossibly gorgeous world that takes hours upon hours to fully explore—and it’s worth every second. —KEIR NOVESKY, *Deputy Design Director*

24

TV

BOB ROSS

► The *Joy of Painting* host left this world in 1995, but we should all be as happy as little trees to know that his earnest, meditative art-instruction series now streams

on Netflix and YouTube. It’s the cuddliest nostalgia trip out there, and it’s impossible not to love.

—JOE MCGOVERN, *Correspondent*



25

TV

FRIENDS

Season 2 • Episode 14

► When she discovers years later that Ross (David Schwimmer) planned to take her to prom after thinking she’d been stood up, Rachel (Jennifer Aniston) kisses him, throwing the will-they-won’t-they out the window

and finally giving fans what they wanted. “The One With the Prom Video” proved to me that true love exists and that someday I’d find my own lobster. —NATALIE ABRAMS, *Senior Writer*

26

MOVIE

NOBODY’S FOOL (1994)

► Few people grew up in a backwater like North Bath, the rotting blue-collar setting of Robert Benton’s adaptation of Richard Russo’s novel, but drop in on any scene—Jessica Tandy offering Paul Newman tea, Newman telling his slow-witted partner that he is his best friend—and it feels like home.

—JEFF LABRECQUE, *Senior Editor*

27

TV

RACHEL MCADAMS AND RYAN GOSLING’S “BEST KISS” WIN

► The only thing better than watching *The Notebook* is watching its stars reenact their iconic smooch at the 2005 MTV Movie Awards. Seeing them make out on stage still gives me hope for love, even if they didn’t last as a couple.

—SAMANTHA HIGHFILL, *Staff Writer*

29

TV

MELISSA MCCARTHY ON SNL Season 37 • Episode 2

► Every time I watch the “Hidden Valley Ranch Taste Test”—in which a desperate, competitive McCarthy tries to one-up her fellow testers—I am reminded of how good it feels to laugh. When I die, I want my headstone to include a screen that plays it on a loop, so that when people go to visit me, they’ll leave full of joy.

—METTIE OSTROWSKI, *Design/Photo Assistant*

30

MOVIE

THE NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS (1993)

► The stop-motion Halloween-town residents are adorably macabre in an Edward Gorey sort of way (vampires with umbrellas to protect them from the sun!). But the real cheer lies in watching Pumpkin King Jack Skellington undertake an accidental voyage of self-discovery and, in the end, find true love. Tim Burton and Henry Selick’s film is an inspiration to misfits and outsiders everywhere.

—GINA MCINTYRE, *News Director*

31

MUSIC

“COLD WATER”

MAJOR LAZER FEATURING JUSTIN BIEBER AND MØ

► Sure, this song’s refreshing title sounds incredibly appealing during a heat wave. But along with the Bieb’s relaxed vocals and an addictive beat, it’s a perfectly chill summer single. —NINA TERRERO, *Senior Correspondent*



TV

VEEP SEASON 5

► Nothing makes me more delirious than marveling at how inappropriately far the writers take this crew of pathological professional D.C. wonks. I’m addicted to the endorphin high I get from Julia Louis-Dreyfus delivering lines I only wish I could use here in the lower offices of *Entertainment Weekly*.

—MICHELE ROMERO, *Photo Editor*



Julia Louis-Dreyfus’ bumbling president capitalizes on a photo op



No
▼

32



MOVIE

JULIE & JULIA



➡ **The relationship between Julia (Meryl!) and Paul Child (Stanley Tucci!)** might be the best love story in cinematic history. When they're celebrating Valentine's Day, he toasts to her and says, "You are the butter to my bread and the breath to my life," and I sob like a baby because it's just so real and tender. She then flutters the paper heart pinned to her chest and it's like rainbows bloom over the table. —JESSICA GOODMAN, *Digital News Editor*

33

MUSIC

"NO BROKEN HEARTS"

BEBE REXHA FEATURING
NICKI MINAJ

➡ Summer-anthem alert! The soaring melody and transportive lyrics have kept me poppin' bottles at the club every night—well, at least it feels that way through headphones, even when I'm just sitting at my desk. —JENIFER GOBIE, *Senior Associate Photo Editor*

34

MOVIE

"POP! GOES MY HEART" FROM MUSIC AND LYRICS (2007)

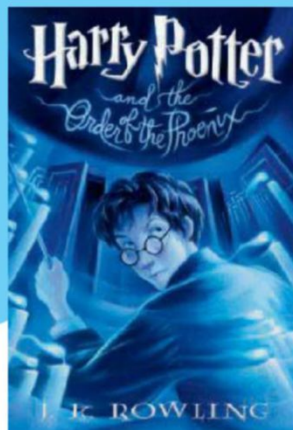
➡ There's a hysterical gem of a scene from this rom-com: the cheesy music-video credit sequence that showcases PoPi, a fictional '80s band. It's crazy and over-the-top, and Hugh Grant does a lot of hip thrusting. —MADELINE RAYNOR, *Editorial Intern*

35

BOOK

HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX

➡ I know studying for exams can be stressful, but I always find the chapter in which the trio take their O.W.L.s to be profoundly comforting. These three have to worry about destroying Umbridge and Voldemort—but first, they've got standardized tests to pass! The Wizarding World's strangely normal like that. —SHIRLEY LI, *Correspondent*



36

STAGE

BROADWAY MUSICAL CAST ALBUMS

➡ A Broadway musical is a promise, a guarantee of positivity through giddily clever rhymes, catchy melodies, and an electric alacrity that pours out of the biggest showstoppers. When I don't have two hours to devote to delirium via shows like *Hairspray* or *Bye Bye Birdie*, I always count on *West Side Story*'s "Dance at the Gym" for a quick temperamental tune-up.

—MARC SNETIKER, *Staff Writer*

37

MUSIC

"LIFE IS SOMETHING SPECIAL"

N.Y.C. PEECH BOYS

➡ The title of this 1982 disco classic only hints at the pure elation contained within. And for close to 10 minutes, iconic DJ Larry Levan and his group

deliver a slow-building, feel-good space-R&B odyssey. Every time I hear it—especially booming from a high-end club sound system—I turn into an uncontrollable, blissed-out maniac on the dance floor.

—KEVIN O'DONNELL, *Senior Editor*

38

TV

THE OFFICE

Season 3 • Episode 23

➡ After three seasons of high fives and candid glances, Jim interrupts Pam's talking-head interview to finally ask her out. Pam's overjoyed face when she turns back to the camera and says, "I'm sorry, what was the question?" makes it absolutely worth the wait. She's crying. I'm crying. Every Jam shipper worldwide is crying.

—RUTH KINANE, *Editorial Assistant*



39

MOVIE

STAR WARS: EPISODE IV— A NEW HOPE (1977)

➡ This is the film I would want to be buried with, so that I can remain happy in my afterlife and still mouth along with Greedo the words "Oota-goota, Solo? Soam peeta-lay!" As long as I'm watching, I'm in a galaxy far, far away, and nothing else matters. —JENNIE CHANG, *Managing Art Director*

40

TV

THE LEFTOVERS

Season 2 • Episode 10

➡ The world is a sad place where bad things happen for no reason, but the invigorating core ideal of *The Leftovers* is that happiness is possible in this cruel universe. Which is why Justin Theroux singing "Homeward Bound" at a karaoke bar beyond infinity in "I Live Here Now" is the most inspiring, joy-inducing, belief-in-humanity-restoring thing I've seen this decade.

—DARREN FRANICH, *Senior Writer*

41

TV

"THE SALT AND PEPPER DINER"

JOHN MULANEY

➡ All of Mulaney's stand-up specials do the trick, but this bit is just so bizarre and so hilarious that it brings me to tears. It's also the reason I can never listen to Tom Jones' "What's New Pussycat?" again.

—DEVAN COGGAN, *Editorial Assistant*

42

BOOK

WHY NOT ME?

MINDY KALING

➡ Of all the fantasy best friends out there, Kaling—with her perfect mix of brainy, *Lean In* workaholicism and love of juicy Hollywood secrets—is the tops. Her 2015 book feels like an intimate note from your funniest pal, and each essay is its own stand-alone pick-me-up. —ISABELLA BIEDENHARN, *Editorial Assistant*

43

MUSIC

"A BETTER SON/DAUGHTER"

RILO KILEY

➡ Anne Hathaway and I don't have much in common, except for our undying love of this indie-rock anthem (the star has said that the song is "almost like a prayer" that she turns to in hard times). Fourteen years after it was first released, frontwoman



Lightning McQueen:
stock car, not stock character

Jenny Lewis' explosive pep talk hasn't lost its power to turn around a terrible day. —NOLAN FEENEY, *Staff Writer*

44

MOVIE

THE WONDER WOMAN TRAILER

➡ I've been waiting for this movie since I was 7, running around in my Underoos with metal bracelets made out of tinfoil, so the trailer for the debut of the Amazonian princess was enough to ignite some serious joy. Wonder Woman couldn't be more needed now, when we are desperate for heroes.

—NICOLE SPERLING, *Senior Writer*

45

MOVIE

CARS (2006)

➡ My son adores this Pixar movie. It gets a shrug or a grimace from the grown-up class, but the purity of his love for it has gradually got me loving it, too—and seeing things I didn't before. As a dad, I expected to teach my kids to love Led Zeppelin and the

movies of *Star Wars* and Steven Spielberg. I never expected their passions to become my own, but with *Cars*, my little boy has made me a die-hard Lightning McQueen fan. He's a race car who taught us both to slow down and enjoy the ride. —ANTHONY BREZNICAN, *Senior Writer*

46

TV

**THE COMEBACK
Season 2 • Episode 6**

➡ In "Valerie Cooks in the Desert," Lisa Kudrow's has-been star is forced to work on a Saturday as her marriage crumbles—and then she has to film in the desert...in a car trunk...with snakes. That's my worst nightmare, but Kudrow makes it the most hilarious reminder that this too shall pass.

—NICK MASLOW, *Digital News Editor*

47

MOVIES

THE THIN MAN SERIES

➡ This time of year, nothing hits the spot like an icy cocktail. And no one's ever enjoyed them

more—or been more enjoyable while enjoying them—than Nick and Nora Charles, William Powell and Myrna Loy's tipsy, banter-swapping husband-wife sleuths in the dizzy, fizzy *Thin Man* movies from the '30s and '40s. Bottoms up...hic!

—CHRIS NASHAWATY, *Critic*

48

TV

**LAST WEEK TONIGHT
WITH JOHN OLIVER**

➡ Articulating righteous sanity amid the sea of conflicting fractured noise, Oliver's deep-dive segments—which remix long-form journalism into upbeat nuggets of viral entertainment—soothe our ever-spinning mental hamster wheels by assuring that, yes, somebody at a TV news desk really does get it, really does care, and can even make an impact.

—JAMES HIBBERD, *Editor at Large*

49

TV

**CRAZY EX-GIRLFRIEND'S
MUSICAL NUMBERS**

➡ I don't think a week has gone by since this show premiered that I haven't binge-rewatched all of these. If I'm forced to pick just one that makes me happiest, it'd have to be "I Gave You a UTI," Santino Fontana's earnestly gleeful and silly ode to urinary-tract infections.

—DYLAN KICKHAM, *Editorial Intern*

No

50



MUSIC

CHANCE THE RAPPER

➡ Optimism permeates Chance's music. From his "Wonderful Everyday: Arthur," a rousing cover of the kids'-show theme song, to the gospel track "Finish Line/Drown," it's hard not to be inspired by how much joy he gets out of life, and by his ability to remain hopeful in the darkest circumstances.

—CHANCELLOR AGARD, *Editorial Assistant*

Skylan Brooks as Ra-Ra,
Tremaine Brown Jr.
as Boo-Boo, Justice
Smith as Ezekiel,
and Shameik Moore
as Shaolin Fantastic





HIP-HOP HOORAY!

BAZ LUHRMANN EXUBERANTLY EXPLORES
THE MUSICAL MOVEMENT'S BIRTH ON
THE GET DOWN,
HIS SERIES DEBUT FOR NETFLIX.

By **TIM STACK** @EWTIMSTACK

Baz Luhrmann is trapped in Paris. The *Moulin Rouge!* and *Great Gatsby* director has been promoting his new Netflix series, *The Get Down*, in Europe and lost his passport. But luckily the U.S. embassy has come through, and he'll be able to travel freely in just a few days. "I got my passport this morning," he says excitedly. "Please let the President know the embassy in Paris is top-notch."

At this point, Luhrmann should be used to rolling with the punches. *The Get Down*, a bold depiction of the rise of hip-hop in the Bronx in 1977, has been a passion project he's tried to develop for more than 10 years. The production schedule has ballooned to almost a year and a half of filming (the first six episodes will debut on Aug. 12 and the remaining six in 2017), with a reported \$120 million budget, which would make it more expensive than season 6 of *Game of Thrones*—a special-effects-heavy effort that cost \$100 million for its 10 episodes, including the massive "Battle of the Bastards."



(From top)
Director Baz
Luhrmann, center,
on set; Herizen
Guardiola as
Mylene and Smith

Despite the hiccups, the struggle may indeed be worth it: *The Get Down* is classic Baz, with unabashed romanticism, star-making performances (remember the name Justice Smith), and elaborate musical numbers woven into each episode. And during a summer of such bleak news, it's a wildly hopeful story of young men and women of color finding an escape in art. Says the writer-director, "If this show can do anything, it can remind people this was a world of violence and negativity but these young people chose to create something positive."

It's fitting that Luhrmann has been trapped in the City of Light because that's where the idea for *Down* was born. Ten years ago, he was in a Parisian café when he saw a Jamel Shabazz photo of NYC in the '70s and was inspired to craft a love letter to that time and place. "I have a genuine, abiding, and profound love affair with New York," says Luhrmann. "How did this incredible wave of completely original creativity come out of that place, at a time in which the city was on its knees?"

The Get Down follows Ezekiel (Smith), a talented teenage poet being raised by his aunt and uncle and in love with his best friend, aspiring disco singer Mylene (Herizen Guardiola). Zeke and his pals, including Dizzee (Jaden Smith), find themselves forever changed when they meet graffiti artist Shaolin Fantastic (*Dope*'s Shameik Moore), who introduces them to a new music form called hip-hop, and his talented mentor Grandmaster Flash (Mamoudou Athie). *The Get Down* episodes are bookended with modern-day scenes that reveal Ezekiel has become a successful rapper by the name of Mr. Books (*Hamilton*'s Daveed Diggs).

The real-life Grandmaster Flash, an icon of the industry, is an associate producer on the show and part of a supergroup of iconic musicians—including Kurtis Blow, Afrika Bambaataa, and Nas—who have helped Luhrmann make *Down* as authentic as possible. "Everyone has benefited from this great art form [hip-hop], but we forget the pioneers and founders," says Nas, who is not

only an EP but also crafts Mr. Books' raps. To that end, the cast was put through hip-hop boot camp to learn the techniques of the era. "I just remember being like, 'Oh, I can't go out today with my friends because I have to go to rap class with Kurtis Blow,'" says Justice Smith. "We had to completely unlearn the style that we naturally picked up from listening to the radio or albums and relearn this new style."

Even with a dream team of advisers, Luhrmann is intimately involved in every aspect of *Down*, from the soundtrack to the costumes, which is why finishing the first season has been such a challenge. "I mean, I don't want to sound like the whiner, right? But let's say somebody else told you that I have not had a weekend off in 18 months." Adds Justice Smith, "It has been exhausting—I'm not going to lie. There are moments of luxury and moments of peace, but most of the time it's just hard work. At the same time, because everyone is so passionate about it, it makes it worthwhile."

The first batch of episodes will find the main characters—Ezekiel, Mylene, and Shaolin—at various crossroads. Ezekiel keeps up his writing while going after an internship at the World Trade Center. "He's faced with the choice there of where does he belong," says supervising producer-writer Nelson George. "Does he belong in this new world where he's going to be a college kid who works in a white-collar job or is he going to somehow stay connected to Shaolin and a piece of the Bronx?" Shaolin is pulled between a life of crime and his DJ skills. Meanwhile, Mylene has to decide what she's willing to compromise: her family or her singing career. Says George, "How far is she willing to pull away from her family in order to fulfill this dream?"

Luhrmann admits he may not be up for the challenge if *The Get Down* gets a season 2, which would likely be set in the early '80s. "I'm looking for a younger spritely fellow who is capable of carrying the torch," says the 53-year-old director. But he adds, "As much as I want to walk away from it, there's something in me that says I just can't do that to the cast and crew. I have to be there to the bitter end. And then my job's done, you know. Until then, it's my life at the moment." But at least he's got a passport. ♦

IN FOCUS

BY ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY



MIGUEL LIGHTS UP THE STAGE WITH A SURPRISE PERFORMANCE AT THE SAMSUNG CREATORS LOUNGE AT VIDCON 2016

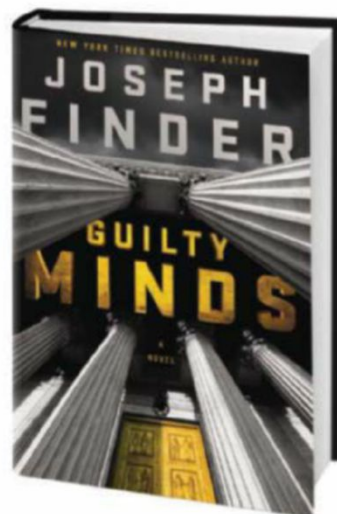
Grammy Award winning artist, Miguel, made a surprise performance at the Samsung Creators' Lounge at VidCon 2016. In an intimate acoustic set, he took the stage performing such sultry hits as "Adorn," "The Thrill," and "Coffee." Guests also had the opportunity to use Samsung Gear VR to view exclusive content from the pop icon's recent Banaroo performance that was captured with Samsung Gear 360.

Samsung.com/Gear360



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BringChange2Mind.org



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JosephFinder.com

DUTTON
— est. 1852 —

Penguin
Random
House

TV GOES BACK TO WORK

It may still be summer, but for most of our favorite shows, that means it's time to get back to set

HOW TO GET AWAY
WITH MURDER

SUPERSTORE

CHICAGO P.D.

MADAM
SECRETARY

SCREAM
QUEENS

EMPIRE



Matt McGorry, Alfred Enoch, Aja Naomi King, Charlie Weber, Liza Weil, and Karla Souza photographed by Art Streiber on July 12, 2016, on the Los Angeles set of *How to Get Away With Murder*



HOW TO GET AWAY WITH MURDER

Premieres
Sept. 22,
10 p.m.,
ABC

Photographs by
Art Streiber

Date
July 12, 2016

Location
Los Angeles

►► **NO ONE LOOKS FORWARD TO RESUMING** those 4 a.m. wake-up calls on Mondays—least of all Karla Souza, who plays law student Laurel Castillo—but on the first day back, she finds it's always entertaining to see how her costars have changed their appearance. "New haircuts for everyone!" says Souza with a laugh. (There are new costumes to go along with those chic new 'dos, too.) "It's exciting to come back and see these people I call family," Souza, who was born in Mexico City, was particularly thrilled to meet Fernanda Coppel, one of the new writers who was hired to help showrunner Peter Nowalk with season 3's chills and thrills. "Knowing there's a Latina in there to help out with Laurel's background is so encouraging and helpful," says Souza.

—*Lynette Rice*



(Above) Ben Feldman, Nichole Bloom, Colton Dunn, Lauren Ash, America Ferrera, Nico Santos, Mark McKinney; (right) Bloom, Ash, Ferrera

SUPERSTORE

Premieres
Sept. 22,
8 p.m.,
NBC

Photographs by
Chris McPherson

Date
July 12, 2016

Location
Los Angeles

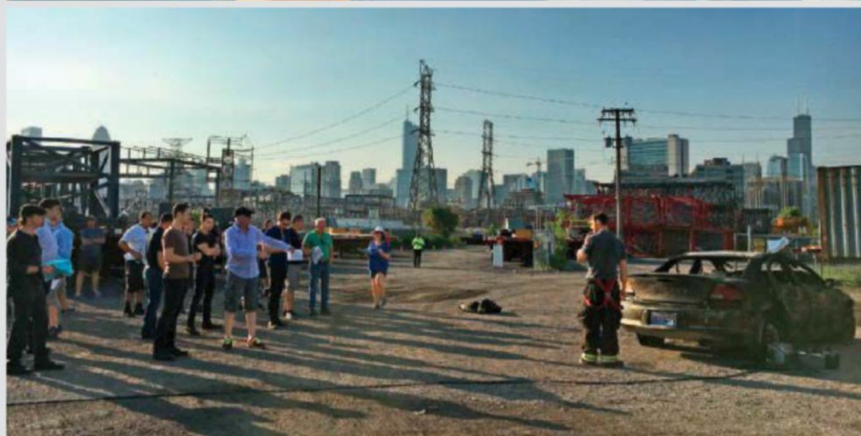
►► **WHEN BEN FELDMAN LEARNED THAT** heading back to the *Superstore* set would require all-day outdoor shoots during L.A.'s unbearable heat wave, he immediately made a trip to Whole Foods. "I bought all these iced coffees and weird little juices, anything I could prepare my body with," says Feldman. Despite his best efforts, both he and costar America Ferrera emerged worse for wear. "We're falling apart," he says, laughing about it a few days later. Still, shooting an episode that sees the Cloud 9 employees continue to strike against their big-box employer made for "one of the best weeks ever." Season 2 promises to continue the sitcom's comedic jabs at serious topics, with extra attention paid to politics in light of the upcoming presidential election. Says Feldman, "It all sort of naturally fits into a show that's the most Americana there is." —*Nina Terrero*





Souza, Viola Davis, and Enoch

(From top) Sophia Bush, camera operator James Zucal, and Jesse Lee Soffer; on set with director Mark Tinker (in baseball cap); Patrick John Flueger, LaRoyce Hawkins, Bush, Soffer, Jesse Spencer, Jon Seda, and Jason Beghe in front row



CHICAGO P.D.

Premieres
Sept. 21,
10 p.m.,
NBC

Photographs by

Chicago P.D. cast

Dates

July 21–26, 2016

Location

Chicago

► **THE CHICAGO P.D. CAST HAS FACED** scorching summers and dismal winters, but only a week into production on season 4, they're already struggling. "We've all been laughing that we've lost our sea legs a bit,"

Sophia Bush says. "Nobody is used to the hours after hiatus: 'What do you mean I can't sleep eight hours anymore?!'" While the new season picks up shortly after the fateful night when Voight (Jason Beghe) may have slaughtered the man who killed his son, behind-the-scenes antics are far less grim. *Quantico* star Li Jun Li has joined the cast as a new partner for Burgess (Marina Squerciati), reuniting with Bush, Jesse Lee Soffer, and Patrick John Flueger after they costarred in NBC's ill-fated 2013 *Hatfields & McCoys* pilot. "There was obviously some kind of magic on that show that didn't get picked up," Bush says. "And it's nice to have another woman around. She's a spitfire." —*Natalie Abrams*

MADAM SECRETARY

Photographs by
Mark Peterson

Premieres

Oct. 2,
9 p.m.,
CBS

Date

July 11, 2016

Location

New York City

► TRAIPSING ABOUT IN THE POWER PUMPS

Téa Leoni wears to play Secretary of State Elizabeth McCord is a whole lot easier knowing there's something comfortable to slip into once the cameras stop rolling. "Ah, my marshmallows!" she quips about her not-so-White-House-ready custom Jack Purcell platform mules. "When Converse stopped making them, I used eBay for the first time in my life and got the last four pairs I could find. Then costume designer Amy Roth had the brilliant idea to make them match the exact height of [Elizabeth's] heels-of-death," Leoni explains. "As soon as we leave the wide master shot and the camera can't see my feet, I'm in my marshmallows." She's even willing to share the wealth: "I'm gonna get Viola [Davis] a pair. Any gal tugging along a network show for 24 episodes should have them." —*Lynette Rice*



(Clockwise from left)
 Tim Daly, Téa Leoni,
 and EP and director Eric
 Stoltz; Patina Miller;
 camera assistant Anthony
 DeRose and Leoni;
 Geoffrey Arend and Leoni





SCREAM QUEENS		Premieres Sept. 20, 9 p.m., Fox
Photographs by Art Streiber		
Date July 28, 2016	Location Los Angeles	

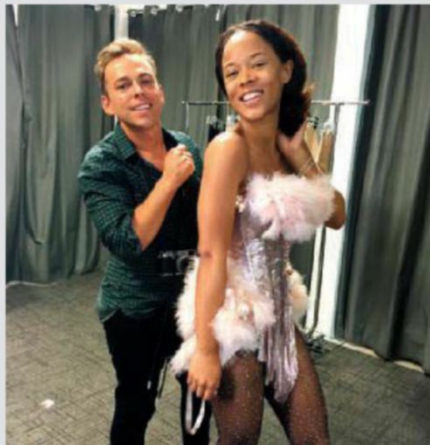
► **AFTER WATCHING MOST OF THEIR** costars (and one really sad mascot) get dispatched by the Red Devil killer (er, killers), the surviving cast members of *Scream Queens* are back for another season of bloody good fun in a whole new setting. Creators Ryan Murphy, Brad Falchuk, and Ian Brennan ditched the college campus for a hospital, now run by the former dean of students Cathy Munsch (Jamie Lee Curtis), with the Chaneles (Emma Roberts, Abigail Breslin, Billie Lourd) and Zayday (Keke Palmer) all in her employ. “The whole dynamic has changed with the removal of the Kappa setting,” says Curtis. “Chanel [Roberts] doesn’t have her queen-bee stature.”

During the first few weeks on set, Curtis makes everyone wear a name tag, but a lucky few also get nicknames—last year, the actress lovingly dubbed her younger costars “the hags.” We have to ask: What’s she calling the hot doctor newbies, played by John Stamos and Taylor Lautner? “Now that we have boys, I call them ‘the hogs.’” —*Tim Stack*





(Clockwise from top left)
Jussie Smollett, barber Nolan Kelly, and Bryshere Y. Gray; Ta'Rhonda Jones; Kelly and Gray; Trai Byers; costume designer Paolo Nieddu and Serayah; and Smollett



(Clockwise from top)
Billie Lourd and Jamie Lee Curtis; Curtis, Abigail Breslin, Lourd, Emma Roberts, and Keke Palmer; Roberts and Lourd; Roberts

EMPIRE

Photographs by
Empire cast

Date
July 11-15, 2016

Premieres
**Sept. 21,
9 p.m.,
Fox**

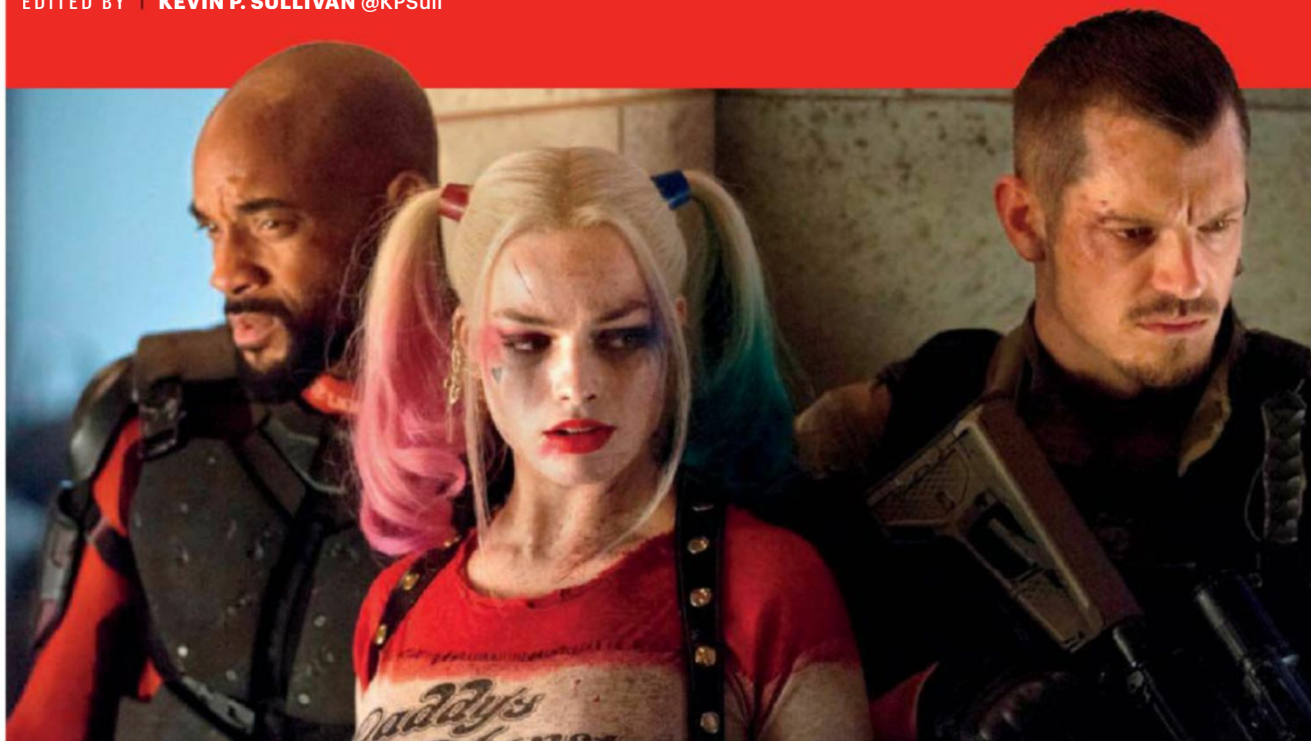
Location
Chicago

► IN JUST TWO SEASONS OF **EMPIRE**, FANS have seen their fair share of scathing drama, blistering catfights, and spiteful one-liners. But among the actors returning for season 3,

there's nothing but genuine camaraderie. "Everyone's so excited to be back," says Bryshere Y. Gray, who plays Hakeem, the youngest Lyon scion, who was disastrously left at the altar last season. Still, stepping back into character wasn't effortless after a four-month hiatus that Gray spent prepping for BET's mini-series about '80s R&B band New Edition. "I'm not going to lie, I had to binge-watch a little bit [of *Empire*] to get back into it," he says, laughing. "Then, seeing my castmates automatically brought me back." So, will the cast's off-camera affection manifest in an on-air Lyon-family lovefest? Teases Gray, "That would be way too easy." —Nina Terrero

Movies

EDITED BY KEVIN P. SULLIVAN @KPSull



▲ Will Smith, Margot Robbie, and Joel Kinnaman

Suicide Squad

STARRING

Will Smith, Margot Robbie, Jared Leto, Viola Davis, Joel Kinnaman

DIRECTED BY

David Ayer

RATING

PG-13

LENGTH

2 hrs., 2 mins.

REVIEW BY

Chris Nashawaty @ChrisNashawaty



AS ONE OF SUMMER'S LAST BEST HOPES, *SUICIDE SQUAD* arrives in theaters with some serious baggage. With each superhyped tentpole that's come and gone over the past few months leaving disappointment in its wake, fanboys and girls always had the fallback mantra: Well, there's still *Suicide Squad*! On paper—or at least the paneled pages of a comic—that optimism seemed well placed. After all, what's not to love about a colorful *Con Air*-style posse of sociopathic antiheroes doing good by being bad? It's a premise that's catnip to anyone

who's ever found Hannibal Lecter and Darth Vader more interesting than Clarice Starling or Luke Skywalker.

Based on the DC Comics series that ran on the assumption that it's the villains who have all the fun, *Suicide Squad* kicks off with fizzy, punk-rock ferocity before turning flat and spiraling into familiar formulas. Viola Davis classes up the proceedings as Amanda Waller, a government agent who cherry-picks an all-star team of psychos, springing them from prison to lead a top secret mission under the wing of Joel Kinnaman's Col. Rick Flag. In return, she promises certain concessions for their "good" behavior. This worst-of-the-worst squad includes Will Smith's chrome-domed assassin Deadshot, Margot Robbie's superfreak bad girl Harley Quinn, Jay Hernandez's pyrokinetic Diablo, Jai Courtney's Aussie badass Captain

► REEL NEWS

Golden Lineup *Jackie*, starring Natalie Portman, and Tom Ford's *Nocturnal Animals* will compete at the Venice Film Festival. • **An Exciting Wrinkle** Oprah Winfrey may reteam with Ava DuVernay for *A Wrinkle in Time*.

Boomerang, Karen Fukuhara's samurai-sword-wielding Katana, and Adewale Akinnuoye-Agbaje's reptilian mound of muscles Killer Croc. Each has a unique skill set for mayhem, but it's Robbie who displays the most thrilling superpower of all: turning into a movie star while having a gonzo blast swinging a baseball bat and tossing off naughty, gum-snapping one-liners. Aside from Smith's Deadshot, she's also the only character with a remotely interesting backstory as the onetime shrink to Jared Leto's mad wild card Joker who was seduced to the dark side. Don't cry for her, she seems to love it.

Writer-director David Ayer (*End of Watch*) skillfully sets up the film, introducing each of the crazies with caffeinated comic-book energy. But their mission—to take down Cara Delevingne's undersketched witch, Enchantress, and her giant golem-like brother—is a bit of a bust. The stakes should feel higher. As someone who isn't fluent in *Suicide Squad* lore, I can't imagine there wasn't a better villain in its back catalog. Still, it's nothing compared with how wasted Leto's scene-stealing Joker is. With his toxic-green hair, shiny metal teeth, and demented rictus grin, he's the most dangerous live wire in the film. But he's stranded in the periphery. For DC, which blew it with *Batman v Superman* last spring, *Suicide Squad* is a small step forward. But it could have been a giant leap. **B-**

THIS FILM CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING:

HC HERO CAMEOS

ND NEEDLE DROPS

FS FAN SERVICE

R REDEMPTION



JAY HERNANDEZ REIGNITES

The former teen heartthrob is heating back up as one of the breakout stars of *Suicide Squad*. BY NICOLE SPERLING

Since Jay Hernandez burst onto the scene opposite Kirsten Dunst in 2001's modern Romeo and Juliet tale *Crazy/Beautiful*, he's struggled to play against type, eschewing waves of offers to portray gang members or other Latino stereotypes in favor of meaty roles that highlight his acting abilities and leading-man good looks. So he recognizes the irony that his first role in a giant summer tentpole—a genre he's tried multiple times to break into—is playing Diablo, a.k.a. Chato Santana, a hairless tattoo-riddled gang member with pyrokinetic powers in *Suicide Squad*.

"To me, [Diablo's] the exception to the rule, because we are constantly fed negative images of black or Hispanic people by the media," says Hernandez, 38. "Diablo is the visual representation of everything we should fear, but he's a human being. He has a history."

When we first meet Diablo, he is living a hermit-like existence inside the Belle Reve prison for metahumans,

scarred by the memories of his horrendous crimes. Like a sober alcoholic, he's repentant and white-knuckling his present, not ready to use his fiery powers for fear he won't be able to control them.

"Diablo has a very powerful and important position in the story; the thematics spin around his character," says *Squad* writer-director David Ayer. "He's a monk in a cave in the beginning, and by the end he has a new family that he's willing to die for. It's a big deal, and Jay killed it. I hope this gets him a lot of work."

Hernandez hopes so too. Just months before landing *Squad*, he was contemplating a career

change, dabbling in real estate while writing and producing a low-budget horror movie. "When you talk about writing, there is a creative freedom you can't have as an actor when your last name is Hernandez," he says.

The actor admits that this performance, plus his recent role as Mila Kunis' love interest in *Bad Moms*, has improved the conversations he's having in Hollywood. Still, he's frustrated by the heat-metric game he has to play. "I'm no different today than I was last year," he says. "As an actor, I haven't grown. I'm the same person. I could have done this s--- two years ago. I just want the opportunity."

Jay Hernandez in *Suicide Squad*





Michael Barbieri and Theo Taplitz

Little Men

STARRING Theo Taplitz, Michael Barbieri, Greg Kinnear

DIRECTED BY Ira Sachs | **RATING** PG | **LENGTH** 1 hr., 25 mins.

REVIEW BY Kevin P. Sullivan @KPSull

▶ **THE WEIGHT OF EVERYDAY DRAMAS DEPENDS** on one's distance from the hormone-dense black hole of adolescence. (*Sure, rent might be due, but my crush doesn't know I exist!*) Ira Sachs' latest quietly touching slice of life, *Little Men*, effectively places both the adult and the adolescent on equal footing and weaves a simple story that feels rich and honest from any perspective. At the center are Jake (Theo Taplitz) and Tony (Michael Barbieri), two instant best friends who meet when the former's parents (Greg Kinnear and Jennifer Ehle) move into the Brooklyn apartment above the storefront occupied by the latter's mother (Paulina García). Each boy is weird in his own endearing way. Jake's quiet and artistic personality makes him a target for his classmates. Tony, on the other hand, is a firecracker, fitting in anywhere and acting the pants off his drama teacher in one dazzling extended take that, in terms of spectacle, embarrasses every other movie this summer. Beyond that and a monetary disagreement among the parents, there isn't much more to *Little Men* when it comes to plot, but Jake and Tony's journey through early teenhood never feels empty. Their scenes together are nuanced and joyful. The restrained script from Sachs and co-writer Mauricio Zacharias takes these boys seriously, without one whiff of condescension, and places value in life's mundane miracles, like forgiveness and the love of a true friend. **B+**

The Little Prince

STARRING Rachel McAdams, Jeff Bridges, Paul Rudd, James Franco

DIRECTED BY Mark Osborne | **RATING** PG | **LENGTH** 1 hr., 48 mins.

REVIEW BY Leah Greenblatt @Leahbats

▶ **IN AN INDUSTRY** that deems Angry Birds and troll dolls worthy subjects for feature-length animation, it seems strange that a children's book as beloved as *The Little Prince* has struggled so much to reach the screen. But as director Mark Osborne himself admits, Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's delicate, melancholy tale is "not movie-shaped at all." And so he's remolded it, fitting the very French Prince inside a more straightforward American narrative that begins when a nameless Little Girl moves next door to the book's original Aviator (Jeff Bridges), now an old man, and befriends him. When we meet her, the Girl

(*Interstellar*'s Mackenzie Foy) desperately needs some joie de vivre: Her summer "vacation" is a lonely boot camp supervised by a type-A single mother (Rachel McAdams) and ruled by a daily regimen of studying and self-improvement. The kindly, eccentric Aviator offers an escape from all that; with his rickety house full of books and music and exotic knickknacks, he shows her the joy in messiness and the limitless possibilities of her imagination—in other words, how to be a kid. And with each visit, she grows more fascinated by his stories and drawings of a small yellow-haired boy's adventures on an asteroid far, far away.



THE LITTLE PRINCE: NETFLIX; BAD MOMS: MICHELE K. SHORT; NERVE: NIKO TAVERNISE; NINE LIVES: TAKASHI SEIDA

One of the most inspired choices Osborne (*Kung Fu Panda*) makes is to build such a striking visual contrast between his two scenarios. The Girl's has the smooth, hyperreal look of modern computer animation, but the Prince's is pure magic: beautifully textured stop-motion frames that hold every bend of shadow and light in their crinkled, papery folds. The seams of the film's parallel plots don't always come together quite as neatly; translating de Saint-Exupéry's metaphysical oddity into an at least semi-conventional kids' movie is a challenge no one may ever quite be able to meet. But at its inventive best—like the creation of a little cloth fox who never speaks but steals almost every scene he's in—it does capture the odd, tender wonder of his world. **B+** 



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	EW	
SEE IT NOW	A-	BAD MOMS  Starring Mila Kunis, Kristen Bell, Kathryn Hahn Beneath all of its hard-R partying, rebellious debauchery, and profanity, <i>Bad Moms</i> taps into something very real. It's one of the funniest movies of the year—and one of the most necessary. 
	A-	INDIGNATION  Starring Logan Lerman, Sarah Gadon, Tracy Letts • Directed by James Schamus
	B+	CAPTAIN FANTASTIC  Starring Viggo Mortensen, Frank Langella, Steve Zahn • Directed by Matt Ross
	B+	GLEASON  Directed by Clay Tweel
	B+	JASON BOURNE  Starring Matt Damon, Alicia Vikander, Tommy Lee Jones • Directed by Paul Greengrass
PROCEED WITH CAUTION	B	ABSOLUTELY FABULOUS: THE MOVIE  Starring Jennifer Saunders, Joanna Lumley, Jon Hamm • Directed by Mandie Fletcher
	B	CAFÉ SOCIETY  Starring Jesse Eisenberg, Kristen Stewart, Steve Carell • Directed by Woody Allen
	B-	EQUITY  Starring Anna Gunn, James Purefoy, Alysia Reiner • Directed by Meera Menon
	B-	INTO THE FOREST  Starring Ellen Page, Evan Rachel Wood, Max Minghella • Directed by Patricia Rozema
	B-	LIGHTS OUT  Starring Teresa Palmer, Maria Bello, Gabriel Bateman • Directed by David F. Sandberg
	B-	NERVE  Starring Emma Roberts, Dave Franco, Samira Wiley This is a film about young people with an energy and sense of fun that's refreshing, especially in the summer of movies we've had so far. The tone and relatively low stakes allow <i>Nerve</i> to be shallow, divertive escapism—kind of like Snapchat. 
	C+	GHOSTBUSTERS  Starring Melissa McCarthy, Kristen Wiig, Leslie Jones • Directed by Paul Feig
	C+	STAR TREK BEYOND  Starring Chris Pine, Idris Elba, Zoe Saldana • Directed by Justin Lin
SKIP IT	C-	ICE AGE: COLLISION COURSE  Starring Ray Romano, John Leguizamo • Directed by Mike Thurmeier & Galen T. Chu
	BOX OF SHAME	NINE LIVES  Starring Kevin Spacey, Jennifer Garner, Christopher Walken This story of a two-time Oscar winner turned into a cat by a one-time Oscar winner to teach him a lesson about parenting—for whatever reason—isn't screening for any critics ahead of its release. If <i>Nine Lives</i> turns out to be the world's greatest talking-cat movie, we'll let you know. 

TV

EDITED BY **CAITLIN BRODY** @cbroday

Nicktoons: An Orange Oral History

Aug. 11 marks the 25th anniversary of Nickelodeon's foray into animation via Nicktoons, a three-show cartoon block that launched **Doug**, **Rugrats**, and **The Ren & Stimpy Show** into TV history and turned the network into a superpower of children's programming. EW's very, very brief oral history dives deep into the slime. **BY MARC SNETIKER**

Vanessa Coffey arrived at Nickelodeon in 1988 as an independent producer, after seven years in art and development at Marvel during its production of the *Transformers*, *My Little Pony*, and *G.I. Joe* TV series.

VANESSA COFFEY I was leaving the business because I just didn't like the concept of doing TV as toy commercials for kids. But because I was into animation, I looked up Nickelodeon, the only game in town [New York] for kids, and I cold-called them. They said, "We're going to hire you as a consultant to find original programming." I basically started hunting.... I put the word out to animators, "I'm looking for ideas. The less developed, the better." Nick gave me an hour and a half to fill as a block. I didn't want a consistent look, like Disney; I was desperate to have three projects that looked completely different.

The first pilot, *Doug*, which followed a small-town middle schooler, came recommended by a friend...

JIM JINKINS (Creator, *Doug*) I was working on this math [game] show for tweens, but everyone who knew me knew that on the side I was drawing doodles of this character, Doug, who was my alter ego. I had worked on a book proposal, and a friend at Nick called me to say they were looking for creator-driven originals to animate into series, and said, "You need to get over there with Doug."

COFFEY I looked at Jim, then the book, then Jim, and said, "Oh my God. You're Doug." And he was like, "Yeah..." And I immediately knew what the show was going to be. I literally ran down the hall and [told my boss], "I want to make a pilot."

JINKINS Doug was the story of being a real kid. He's not cool. He's not a Charlie Brown loser. He's in the middle. The show is like the character. At a glance, you'll be like, "So what?" But if you'll give Doug time, he'll grow on you.

The baby-focused fantasy *Rugrats* came from Klasky-Csupó, a rising





RUGRATS, DOUG, NICKELDEON (S); THE REN & STIMPY SHOW: EVERETT COLLECTION

▶ LOGLINES

Elsa Meets CC Idina Menzel is set to star in Lifetime's

2017 adaptation of *Beaches*. • **Animal Instincts**

Jennifer Garner will lend her voice to Netflix's animated series *Llama Llama* as—you guessed it—a llama.

animation house that parted ways with *The Simpsons* in 1992.

GÁBOR CSUPÓ (Co-creator, *Rugrats*) Everyone was pointing at *The Simpsons*—do something like this, but for children. Something inventive. Something daring. Not your regular Saturday-morning cartoon. And Arlene said, “Let’s do a show about babies.”

ARLENE KLASKY (Co-creator, *Rugrats*) Gábor had done an animated film where a baby would drop a bottle and say “down” and then say “up,” and it went back and forth like that ad nauseam. That film always stuck in my mind. It wasn’t rational. *Rugrats* was the same theory: If babies could talk, what would they say?

PAUL GERMAIN (Co-creator, *Rugrats*) I pitched Vanessa all these ideas that I’d developed over the last three months, and she says no to all of them. And I got to my last pitch, which is literally a sentence, and say, “Okay, a bunch of incognizant babies seem really dumb, but when the adults leave the room, the babies suddenly get up and talk.” And she goes, “I love it.”

COFFEY They didn’t have anything written, no drawings. The only thing I said was “I don’t want realistic drawings.” And they said, “That’s easy for us.”

KLASKY Our aesthetic was off-beat and quirky. I didn’t draw the way Disney did. Some people thought our style was ugly. We thought it was beautiful.

CSUPÓ We started to draw crazy-looking babies, and the more outrageously funny they looked, the more we liked them.

GERMAIN Gábor showed me an image of Chuckie and said, “What if this were a bully?” And I said, “He doesn’t look like a bully to me. What if we had a girl bully?”... And if Tommy was all about exploration, I wanted his sidekick to always be

frightened. Chuckie and Angelica are the heart of the show, but they didn’t come in until after the pilot.

Last was the dog-and-cat comedy *The Ren & Stimpy Show*, expanded from a pitch that artist John Kricfalusi had been shopping for years.

COFFEY John had three shows he was pitching: *Atomic Pig*, *Jimmy the Retarded Boy*, and a show called *Your Gang*. Frankly, I didn’t like any of those, but in *Your Gang* the main character had a dog and a cat: Ren and Stimpy.

JOHN KRICFALUSI (Creator, *The Ren & Stimpy Show*) I tried to downplay Ren and Stimpy in the pitch, but Vanessa stopped me and said, “Tell me more about these two characters!” She liked the fact that they looked so weird (and they looked much weirder originally, before I toned them down for Nicktoons). When I pitched

their personalities and story lines, she laughed and liked them even more. I did want to keep some of the other weird characters [from *Your Gang*], but she was determined to try to keep it solely a funny animal show.

Nick tested eight pilots, ordering the top three (*Doug* was the highest-scoring) to series. Unlike Nick’s live-action teen shows (like *Clarissa Explains It All* and *Welcome Freshmen*), animators had to develop the tone of their new frontier.

JINKINS The making of *Doug* was that combination of an almost schizophrenic “We love you, you’re doing great” and then “You don’t know what you’re doing!” But that cut both ways, because Nicktoons hadn’t happened yet, so they didn’t really know what they were doing either!

COFFEY I wanted to create a meal. A good-for-you show: *Doug*. A meal that you can live on, like spaghetti and meatballs, which is *Rugrats*. And then *Ren & Stimpy* was just pure sugar.

KRICFALUSI It was an interesting combination. *Doug* and *Ren & Stimpy* seemed to represent the extreme range of cartoon types, while *Rugrats* was sort of in the middle between weirdness and normalcy—probably closer to weirdness.

The newly coined Nicktoons block debuted on the Sunday morning of Aug. 11, 1991.

COFFEY It was all about ratings, and it was a success. I remember them saying, “We need a five-year plan for Nicktoons in case these three don’t work.” And maybe I was just young and dumb, but I said, “You don’t need to, because they’re going to work. I’ll make sure of it.” [Laughs] Twenty-five years later, guess what? I was right!

“WHAT I HEAR CONSTANTLY, OVER AND OVER AGAIN, IS ‘THANK YOU FOR MY CHILDHOOD.’”
—ARLENE KLASKY



MORE ON EW.COM For the full history—including axed characters, unresolved endings, and possible reboots—head to **EW.com**

SPORTS-FREE BINGE

Not Into the Olympics? Watch These Instead

If that archery event bores you silly, don't sweat it! Catch up with these winning shows from the comfort of your couch.

BY JEFF JENSEN

AUGUST BRINGS THE EVERY-four-years spectacle of the Summer Olympics. For some, the drama of extraordinary athletes sweating for bling and country is thrilling theater, full of high-stakes tension and sentimental tales about the triumph of the human spirit, protein shakes, and this thing called "working out" that people keep telling me about. For others, the Olympics is all "Ugh, sports. What else can I watch?" If you're in the latter camp, **YOU'RE A TERRIBLE AMERICAN**. But you also have the perfect opportunity to try some shows you may have missed, put off, or stockpiled on your maxed-out DVR. Here are some gold-, silver-, and bronze-medal recommendations.



Penny Dreadful's
Eva Green; *Catastrophe's*
Rob Delaney and
Sharon Horgan; Louis
C.K. of *Horace and Pete*

SILVER

PENNY DREADFUL

Season 3 (Showtime; streaming)

If you've never seen John Logan's late, great pastiche of 19th-century horror, season 3 is an accessible showcase for its philosophical treatment of pulp themes and a sensational central performance. Eva Green plays Vanessa Ives, a woman of faith tormented by devils, including one of the better Draculas (Christian Camargo) in recent memory—a man of science as Byronic antihero. One singular episode, "A Blade of Grass," is Green's tour de force and a brilliant allegory about a gaslit woman in an oppressive culture; it stakes my heart that the Emmys ignored it. Billie Piper is also electric as a reanimated Frankensteinian revenant leading a violent feminist insurrection, and Josh Hartnett is bloody good as a werewolf cowboy wrestling with the sins of his wild Western fall.

GOLD

CATASTROPHE

Season 2 (Amazon Prime)

Rob Delaney and Sharon Horgan have created one of the rawest depictions of (accidental) parenthood you'll find on TV. It gets real about postpartum depression, fraught baby bonding, marital intimacy, and so much more. It's also outrageously funny: a rush of hard laughs, suffused with insight and empathy. Delaney and Horgan, who write and star, are a fantastic pairing who generate impressive authenticity. They're well supported by Carrie Fisher as the mother/mother-in-law from hell and Mark Bonnar as an acerbic, unhappily married friend questioning his identity. The show has the vibe of inspired improv but the polish of honed vision, and each installment in this six-ep season is tight, brisk, and under 30 minutes. You'll binge it quick and laugh for days.

BRONZE

HORACE AND PETE

(louisck.net)

For the adventurous viewer willing to pay for art wherever it can be found, Louis C.K.'s 10-episode tragic drama is worth your money, mind, and tears. It's a powerfully acted, roughly shot, theater-style exploration about broken manhood and legacy, with C.K. and Steve Buscemi as the titular owners of a long-lived dive bar at a pivotal crossroads. The supporting turns by Alan Alda as a toxic senior and Jessica Lange as a ragged barfly are terrific. But Emmy-nominated Laurie Metcalf as Horace's ex-wife is certifiably Olympian: She deserves to win for her epic monologue in episode 3, a poignant and hilarious tale of strange infidelity.

**FIRST
LOOK**



MARILYN MANSON HAUNTS SALEM

The *Born Villain* singer gets, well, villainous in the third season of the spooky drama.
BY CHANCELLOR AGARD

The devil has come to Salem—and he's found an ally in none other than the famously eyelinered rocker Marilyn Manson. In the third season of *Salem*—the WGN America supernatural drama about witch hunts in the early 1690s—Manson will recur as Thomas Dinley, the town's not-so-friendly barber/surgeon. (Yup, that was a thing back then.) On Dinley's agenda? Teaming up with the devil (Oliver Bell) and creating hell on earth.

"My character ends up being something that could be called the devil's advocate or the devil's

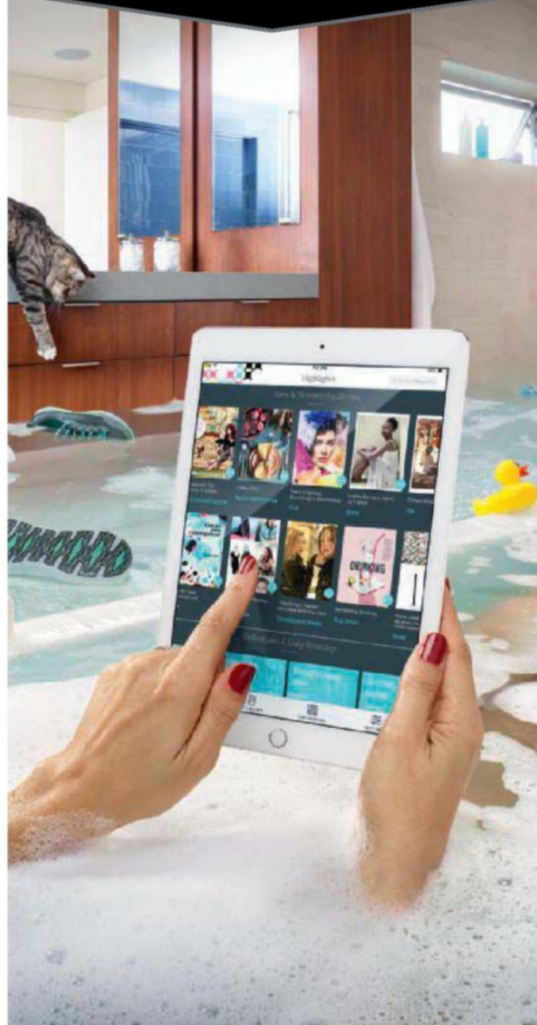
best friend," says Manson, who also wrote the show's eerie opening-credits music with series composer Tyler Bates.

The new season of *Salem*, which appropriately premieres the week of Halloween (on Nov. 2), concerns the war between the Devil and witch Mary Sibley (Janet Montgomery), who died at the end of season 2 and—*gasp!*—is resurrected when the show returns. Dinley will be working for both sides of the conflict. "He has no moral balance," says Manson, who felt right at home on the Shreveport, La., set. "The place where

Dinley operates his business is not dissimilar to my home. I collect a lot of the medical devices from the era," he says. Director Nick Copus suggested Manson bring a lot of his personality to the part, too.

Customers entering Dinley's shop for a shave need to be on guard, since a beard trim could very well come with a slashed throat. "He's Vidal Sassoon and Jack the Ripper," says co-creator and EP Brannon Braga. And there's definitely some Sweeney Todd mixed into the character as well. Says Braga, "Don't be surprised if you see a meat pie or two."

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What to Watch

A DAY-TO-DAY GUIDE TO NOTABLE PROGRAMS* BY RAY RAHMAN @RayRahman



MUST
WATCH
OF THE
WEEK

Season Finale UNREAL

MONDAY, AUG. 8 | 10-11PM | LIFETIME

Rachel (Shiri Appleby) can make “true love” happen for *Everlasting* contestants, but producing a happy ending for herself will take more than a couple of crafty camera angles and shots of liquid courage. In fact, it’ll take an assist from Quinn (Constance Zimmer), who desperately needs Rachel to find a wife for Darius (B.J. Britt) after all the behind-the-scenes chaos. “They end up coming together to get control of the situation as a united front,” Appleby says, adding that they *do* find a lucky lady in the end. “Last season’s finale was about Rachel getting destroyed. [This season] is about getting back at the people who have done her wrong.” At the top of that list? “Coleman definitely gets what’s coming to him,” Appleby teases. Hey, happy endings don’t always have to include true love. —Shirley Li

Go to ew.com/what-to-watch for our daily picks of **What to Watch**

MONDAY AUGUST 8



Season Finale ▶ Angie Tribeca

9-9:30PM | TBS

TBS has guaranteed the goofball comedy another season, and thanks to the hilarious finale, it’s easy to see why. *Tribeca* has found its groove and broadened beyond the police-procedural world—it now gleefully spoofs everything from electoral politics to prison dramas (ahem, *Orange Is the New Black*). At times the show even approaches (if not reaches) *Wet Hot American Summer* levels of greatness. It’s the best kind of comedy comfort food, both familiar and capable of delicious surprise. **B+**

TUESDAY AUGUST 9

Season Premiere ▶ Hard Knocks: Training Camp With the Los Angeles Rams

10-11PM | HBO

The docuseries excels at mining drama from the NFL, and this season the show adds a new layer by shadowing the Rams as they move from St. Louis to L.A., which hasn’t had a team since 1994. “There’s financial stakes, on-the-field stakes, and the cultural stakes of recapturing the imagination of an entire city,” says producer Ken Rodgers. As for the players, he’s already got his eye on a few: “Defensive end William Hayes. He’s very comfortable with his unique viewpoints on the world—like his belief that dinosaurs are fake and are a conspiracy made up by scientists.”



UNREAL: BETTINA STRAUSS; ANGIE TRIBECA: DOUG HYUN/TBS; HARD KNOCKS: TRAINING CAMP WITH THE LOS ANGELES RAMS: HBO

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 10



Season Premiere

► Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry

8-9PM | E!

The new season of medium-to-the-stars Tyler Henry's show promises to be more personal than ever, as the series focuses on his journey not just as a medium but also as a person. "You'll see many parts throughout where I have an emotional reaction to the readings even before I go into them," says Henry, who at one point is brought to tears while on his way to meet with Snooki and her family. (Who can blame him?) His client list will also include Kris Jenner, former teenage witch Melissa Joan Hart, *Glee*'s Kevin McHale, singer Moby, and rapper Lil Jon, whose session was "amazing," Henry confirms. "It was really beautiful, the connection that we made. You'll see a connection with his parents, and for me that was one of the most profound readings." —Chancellor Agard

► American Gothic

10-11PM | CBS

Garrett and Alison battle a reporter who's harassing the Hawthornes. Geraldo Rivera will do anything for ratings.

Midseason Premiere

► Catfish: The TV Show

10-11PM | MTV

The premiere centers on a woman who gets romantically duped online... by an actual catfish! No, no, I'm just kidding—it'll be regular humans, like usual.

► Mr. Robot

10-11PM | USA

Mr. Robot tries to show Elliot he can be useful. "Look, I own *Fight Club* on Blu-ray!"

THURSDAY AUGUST 11

Series Debut

► Take My Wife

STREAMING | SEESO

Created by stand-ups Rhea Butcher and Cameron Esposito, *Take My Wife* is an endearing lo-fi sitcom inspired by their real-life marriage and career struggles. The more established Cameron emcees a comic showcase; Rhea is trying to commit fully to comedy. They bring a perspective that's needed, and don't they know it. In one ep, Cameron pokes at the rash of lesbian death on TV. "I just want us to live!" Zing! (Just embrace it.) While always winning, *Take My Wife* is zestier when Rhea and Cameron are just living, not making points. **B** —Jeff Jensen



FRI AUG 12

Season Finale

► The Great British Baking Show

9-10PM* | PBS

Finalists Ian, Nadiya, and Tamal make iced buns, raspberry-flavored mille-feuille, and multilayered cakes. Make sure you have delicious snacks on hand, because you're gonna get hungry. *check local listings

Season Finale

► Outcast

10-11PM | CINEMAX

The series ends its first season with Kyle and Anderson scouring Rome as they look for an unexpected perpetrator. That Silvio Berlusconi, always up to no good!

SATURDAY AUGUST 13

JOCK JAM

► Monday Night Football: Preseason

8-11PM | ESPN

It's not the regular season yet (it's not even Monday!), but football waits for no one. Tonight the newly relocated Los Angeles Rams (see opposite page) host the Cowboys. If you don't know what city the Cowboys play for, you've probably already stopped reading this.



SUNDAY AUGUST 14

► Celebrity Family Feud

8-9PM | ABC

Paula Deen's family (yes, that Paula Deen) goes against the family of stylist Carson Kressley (*Queer Eye for the Straight Guy*). Well, this should help fix America's political divides...

► The Night Of

9-10PM | HBO

As he sits in prison awaiting trial, Naz begins to deepen his alliance with Freddy. That's a smart move: If you ever find yourself on a TV series and Michael Kenneth Williams happens to be there, definitely make sure you're on his side.

Series Debut

► Chesapeake Shores

9-11PM | HALLMARK

Starring Jesse Metcalfe (*Desperate Housewives*) and Meghan Ory (*Once Upon a Time*), this drama follows a single mother's family in her small hometown. Basically a low-budget *Gilmore Girls*.

► BrainDead

10-11PM | CBS

Red and Luke discuss a potential war during a Senate Intelligence meeting. Upon hearing about this, actual senators responded: "Meeting? To...discuss things? Are we even allowed to do that?"

Music

EDITED BY KEVIN O'DONNELL @ODtron



The Best (and Worst) of 2016's Summer Festivals

From SXSW in Austin to Lollapalooza's 25th-anniversary blowout in Chicago, EW was on the ground (and in the pit) for the biggest festival season in America yet. Here are the highlights, the lowlights, and who we think should be a headliner in 2017.

BY ERIC RENNER BROWN, NOLAN FEENEY, KEVIN O'DONNELL & MADISON VAIN

▶ NOTEWORTHY

My Chemical Romance will reissue 2006's *The Black Parade* on Sept. 23. • On Sept. 23 **Bruce Springsteen** will release *Chapter and Verse*, a career-spanning set with new cuts, to coincide with his memoir, *Born to Run*.

▶ **Biggest Proof Rock Isn't Dead** **Pearl Jam**

The 25th anniversary of their landmark debut, *Ten*, is upon us, but at Bonnaroo in Manchester, Tenn., Pearl Jam were as vital as ever. Eddie Vedder's trademark yowl is still as strong as ever, and Mike McCready's molten guitar solos electrified the 700-acre farm during songs like "Even Flow." They also honored their rock & roll forebears with incredible covers of Neil Young's "Rockin' in the Free World" and Pink Floyd's "Comfortably Numb."

▶ **Biggest Proof Rock Is Dead** **Guns N' Roses**

Once known for his wild stage antics, frontman Axl Rose was chairbound for GN'R's Coachella slot due to a broken foot. The group's beloved classics also weren't enough to draw younger attendees away from buzzy newcomers like Grimes and Shamir.



Best Adult Beverage
Electric Sky's
rosé tower at
Governors Ball

▶ **Best Political Statement** **Kendrick Lamar**

In front of a gobsmacked crowd at New York City's Panorama, the MC punctuated tracks from his 2015 opus *To Pimp a Butterfly*—perhaps this decade's sharpest musical document about the African-American experience—with striking found footage depicting everything from the Reagans to Michael Jordan.

▶ **Worst Political Statement** **Father John Misty**

At XPoNential in Philadelphia, one day after Donald Trump's Republican National Convention speech, the songwriter ranted about the state of the world and the "stupidity" of entertainment

before playing two songs (a 10-minute improvisation and a Leonard Cohen cover) and cutting his set short.

Best Dance Party for Millennials
The Chainsmokers
at **Coachella**

Best Dance Party
for *Draft-Card Burners*
Dead & Company at **Bonnaroo**

Best Dance Party for Gen-Xers
Red Hot Chili Peppers
at **Lollapalooza**



▶ **Best After-Party** **LCD Soundsystem**

James Murphy's newly reunited dance-punk outfit warmed up for a headlining Lollapalooza slot with two totally-sold-out shows at Chicago's 1,110-capacity Metro club. With a glittering disco ball, euphoric anthems like "All My Friends," and drummer Pat Mahoney's supernaturally precise drumming, LCD showed why they're the best live band in America now.

▶ **Best Bowie Tribute** **Arcade Fire**

When Arcade Fire ended their Panorama performance, they didn't exit stage left. Instead, the Canadian group—along with the Preservation Hall Jazz Band—marched straight into the crowd to lead joyful sing-alongs of Bowie classics "Rebel Rebel," "Suffragette City," and "Heroes."



Best Cure for Your Comedown
Bob Moses' 1:30 a.m.
set at **Bonnaroo**

▶ **Best Prince Tribute** **Beck**

His music has long been inspired by His Purpleness' righteous funk, so it makes sense that Beck

punched up his set at Governors Ball in New York City with killer covers of "1999" and "Raspberry Beret." He also shared a hilariously awkward story of bum-rushing Prince for a hug when accepting his Grammy for Album of the Year in 2015: "Afterward," Beck said, "I looked up the photo and there was a big smile on his face."

▶ **Best Reason to Take Up** **Kurt Vile**

Is it a coincidence the mellow indie rocker's dazed and loopy riffs could often be heard at various festivals right when 4:20 p.m. struck?

▶ **Cleanest Grounds** **Coachella**

Mud and trash can ruin a selfie, and Coachella organizers know it. Every inch of the polo fields in Indio, Calif., are manicured as delicately as the flower-crowned masses who walk them.

Biggest FOMO Inducer
#COACHELLA

▶ **Grossest Grounds** **Governors Ball**

And that was before torrential rains turned Randall's Island into a mud pit.

▶ **Biggest Risk-Taker** **Robyn**

Her stature has only grown since 2010's breakthrough *Body Talk*, but she disappointed fans anticipating "Call Your Girlfriend" and "Dancing on My Own" at Governors Ball. Instead, the quirky Swedish pop star followed her muse, playing only remixes and new songs. The experiment worked: She made the sprawling

field feel as thrilling and intimate as a '70s-era disco.



Worst-Kept Secret
Drake's "surprise"
set at **SXSW**

▶ **Worst Luck** **Governors Ball**

This five-year-old festival has earned the nickname "Mud Ball" for all the times it's been hit with heavy rain, but this year organizers actually had to cancel an entire day—including a highly anticipated set from Kanye West—due to a storm.

▶ **Best Festival Accessory** **Sia's Wig**

The camera-shy artist prefers to go unseen, but the same isn't true of her fans—a handful donned conspicuous replicas of Sia's signature two-tone wigs during her twilight performance at Panorama.

▶ **Worst Festival Accessory** **American Flag "Clothing" at Stagecoach**

Bikinis that'd make Betsy Ross blush.

▶ **Best French Import** **Christine and the Queens**

The singer's off-the-wall moves at Governors Ball—she danced around with a bouquet of flowers and compared the petals to Rihanna and Beyoncé—have little in common with the routines of other pop stars. Yet a thrilling



Best Diva
Mariah Carey at
Essence Fest

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cover of Technotronic's "Pump Up the Jam" proves she could go toe-to-toe with any of those stars.



► **Best Surprise Guest Star**
Carly Rae Jepsen

Whether joining retro-pop duo the Knocks at Governors Ball or popping out at Pitchfork for her pal Blood Orange's set, Jepsen was the queen of cameos this season.



Best Food
San Francisco's Outside Lands

► **Best Hometown Jam**
Willie Nelson at SXSW

The country legend's annual one-day festival at his Luck ranch 30 miles outside Austin may not be an official SXSW event, but those who made the trek caught impromptu down-and-dirty jams



with Lucius, Jenny Lewis, and Margo Price in Nelson's own intimate chapel.

► **Most Surprising Sing-Along**
Third Eye Blind's "Semi-Charmed Life"

Who says millennials don't know about the past? The '90s alt-rockers turned fest grounds into massive sing-alongs across the country this season.



Best Workout
Morning yoga at Bonnaroo



Hardest Workout
The trek between Lollapalooza's main stages

► **Hottest Breakout Star**
Anderson .Paak

The soulful SoCal rapper caught his big break as a guest on Dr. Dre's 2015 album *Compton*—but this summer he came into his own, toting his ebullient stage presence and stellar backing band, the Free Nationals, from Coachella to Panorama. Headlining material for summer 2017? Definitely.

**IT'S LIKE
YOUR TONGUE
CRASHED INTO
A CHOCOLATY,
PEANUTY,
CARAMEL
ICEBERG.**



ICE CREAM SATISFACTION

Books

▶ BETWEEN THE LINES

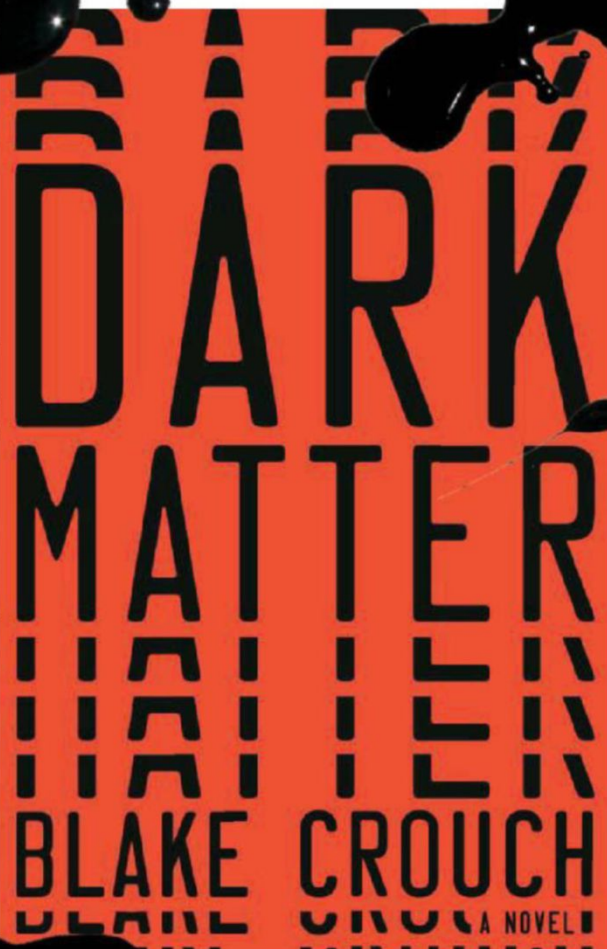
Anna Faris is spinning her podcast into a memoir,

Unqualified; her husband, **Chris Pratt**, will write

the foreword. • *How to Be a Bawse*, a self-help book

from YouTuber **Lilly Singh**, will hit stores next March.

EDITED BY **TINA JORDAN** @EWTinaJordan



“COULD YOU DEFEAT AN ALTERNATIVE-DIMENSION ‘YOU’ IN A BATTLE OF WITS AND MAYBE EVEN A FIGHT TO THE DEATH?”

Dark Matter

BY Blake Crouch	PAGES 340	GENRE Thriller	REVIEW BY Clark Collis @ClarkCollis
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▶ **WOULD YOU BE HAPPIER IF YOU HAD SPENT MORE** time pursuing your career than tending to your personal relationships? Conversely, would your life be improved if you had devoted as much attention to

your nearest and dearest as you did to the professional greasy pole? Both questions are raised in this brisk, propulsive sci-fi thriller from Wayward Pines trilogy author Blake Crouch. But the book really hinges on a third query: Could you defeat an alternative-dimension “you” in a battle of wits and maybe even a fight to the death?

Crouch’s protagonist—and antagonist, for that matter—is Jason Dessen. Seemingly destined for a brilliant career as a physicist, Dessen instead opted for a life based around his wife, Daniela, and son, the now teenage Charlie. One night, he is drugged by a masked and armed man and wakes in a world where he has a brilliant career but no wife or child. What is going on? Well, as Crouch reveals early in the book, the masked man is a Jason Dessen from a different dimension, one in which this Jason₂, as “our” Jason calls him, has developed a way to travel between alternate universes. Desperate to experience the domestic satisfaction of Jason₁, he decided to change places with his doppelgänger, leaving the latter marooned in a strange and increasingly dangerous world. The bulk of *Dark Matter* tracks Jason₁’s seemingly impossible attempt to reclaim the life and loves that have been stolen from him.

The concept of interdimensional travel has been previously explored in a host of fantastical fictional works, from Robert Heinlein’s 1980 novel *The Number of the Beast* to the Fox TV show *Fringe*. *Dark Matter* has plenty of heady concepts and phantasmagorical plotting. But it is also beguilingly rooted in Jason₁’s desperate travails, elevating this page-turning adventure into an entirely different dimension. **B+ E C A**

MEMORABLE LINE “Whole Foods smells like the hippie I dated before Daniela—a tincture of fresh produce, ground coffee, and essential oils.”



3 QUESTIONS FOR

Anne Rice

The vampire who has starred in her gothic horror novels for four decades returns in *Prince Lestat and the Realms of Atlantis*, out Nov. 29. By Isabella Biedenbarn

1

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How did Lestat end up in Atlantis?

I was working on a novel called *Born for Atlantis*. I couldn't get it to work. I thought, "What if I could somehow combine this with Lestat and the vampires?" And it was like, everything worked. By the time I was done, it felt inevitable, like it always had been.... It was a rare experience.

2

>

How does it feel when things click that way?

It was the kind of writing I love with my whole heart: imaginative world-building. And as much as I love writing about Lestat's personal agonies as he roams the world, I also love telling tales. I want the next novel to flow right out of this one.

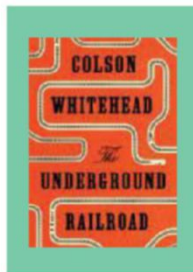
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What's the best writing advice you ever got?

In 1977 I heard George Lucas say about *Star Wars*, "We made the movie we couldn't find, the one we wanted to see." And I thought, "That is a rule I have to remember: Write the book you can't find, that you really want to read."

QUICK TAKES



The Underground Railroad
COLSON WHITEHEAD
Novel

Cora's life on a Georgia cotton plantation is a daily litany of body- and soul-crushing cruelties: "misery tucked inside miseries, and you were meant to keep track." So when another slave offers a way out, Cora takes it—and when a white boy dies during their escape, the journey takes on another kind of urgency. There's a twist to the title—in Whitehead's reimagining, the Underground Railroad isn't a metaphor but an actual grid of tracks and boxcars built by secret supporters of the cause—and Cora's travels, too, have the fantastical ring of allegory. Her America is a still-new nation full of memorable color and characters, but it's also raw and vicious, a place that punishes the best intentions on a whim and rewards the ruthless over and over again. While supporting players come and go, Cora remains at the center of it all yet just out of reach—less the heroine of her own story than a witness to outrageous, extraordinary history. **B+** —Leah Greenblatt **E C A**



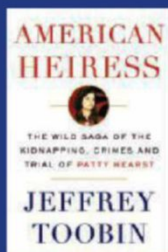
Leaving Lucy Pear
ANNA SOLOMON
Novel

Solomon is a beautiful writer, and her prose brings people and scenes achingly alive. There's Beatrice Haven, a wealthy woman who leaves her illegitimate newborn under a tree in the hopes that the Irish family that steals pears from her aunt and uncle's orchard will find and raise the child as their own. There's Emma Murphy, the tired mother of eight who, as planned, discovers and keeps the baby, but then 10 years later ends up with a job in Bea's house. And finally, there's Lucy Pear, the lovable heart of the story, on the cusp of ripening and busy working her own secret plan. At times it feels like Solomon is ticking off boxes to prove she researched the 1920s setting (Prohibition, check; Sacco and Vanzetti, check), but she needn't have worried: Her characters' struggles with motherhood and identity would be compelling in any era. **B** —Isabella Biedenbarn **E A**



Playing Dead
ELIZABETH GREENWOOD
Nonfiction

Drowning in six-figure student-loan debt, Greenwood was bemoaning her situation over dinner when a friend suggested, cheekily, that she fake her own death. The offhand comment struck a nerve: "From bit player in your life, you become the auteur. From being pressed up against a wall, you carve a tunnel," she says. Her obsession with the idea led to this bizarre exposé of the disappearance industry. In it she grills "privacy consultants" who help people vanish, interviews investigators who specialize in death fraud, and even explores black-market morgues in the Philippines where people can obtain bogus death certificates—for a price. Don't mistake this for a how-to manual, though. Greenwood herself wasn't seriously tempted to disappear. "Nothing is ever free," she says, surveying the broken families left behind when someone fakes their own death. "There is no such thing as getting away with it." **A** —Tina Jordan **E A**



BOOKS OF MY LIFE

JEFFREY TOOBIN

On the heels of the sensational *American Crime Story*, based on his 1996 hit about O.J. Simpson, the lawyer-journalist now turns his exacting eye on the infamous Patty Hearst case. Here, he shares his literary influences.

The books I loved as a child

<1> The Landmark series of history books, which were the same size as the Hardy Boys books (perfect for little hands) but much cooler because they told true stories!

What I read in secret as a teen

The parents of all my babysitting clients had <2> *The Joy of Sex*. Yes!

The book that changed my life

J. Anthony Lukas' *Common Ground*, about the Boston busing crisis of the '70s, begins with the protagonist contemplating his life in an office at the *Harvard Law Review*. I first opened this book... contemplating my life in an office at the *Harvard Law Review*. I found more richness and wisdom in Lukas' book than in anything I read in law school. Lukas—not any judge or justice—became my idol and role model.

The genre I'd read if I were limited to one

Anything but science fiction.

The last book that made me laugh

In studying the Patty Hearst story, I've been on a big '70s kick. I laughed often at Brendan Koerner's *The Skies Belong to Us*, which is the story of the skyjacking epidemic of that era. Man, those were some dumb criminals.

A book I wished I'd written

Jill Leovy's <3> *Ghettoside*. While I was at the O.J. trial, she was documenting murders in South Central L.A. In the larger scheme of things, she may have had the bigger story.

Do I read my books after they come out?

No! When my friends at FX were making *American Crime Story*, based on my book *The Run of His Life*, they informed me about all sorts of things that I had written. I concluded that it must be a very interesting book.

The classic I'm embarrassed to say I've never read

Anna Karenina.

The classic I've pretended to have read

Anna Karenina. (She dies at the end, right?)

A movie adaptation I loved

My family refuses to watch <4> *The Godfather I or II* in my presence, because I say all the lines in advance. That's love—mine for the movies, that is.

The book I've read over and over

John le Carré's <5> *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy*. It's basically a



whodunit (and at this point I know whodunit), but it's so expertly crafted and beautifully written that I find delight and surprises every time.

The piece I wrote that makes me cringe—and the one that still makes me proud

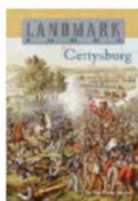
Same answer for both! My sports column for my college newspaper

was called "Inner Toobin"—which is so awful that it's kind of great.

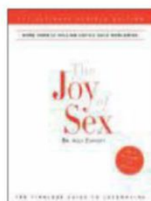
What I'm reading now

The Warmth of Other Suns, by Isabel Wilkerson, about the great migration of African-Americans from the South to the North. It's so brilliant that it makes me euphoric—and kind of jealous, too.

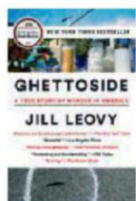
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WARNING

The effects of reading can vary among children. Newfound **CURIOSITY**, a sense of **DISCOVERY** and a big **IMAGINATION** are all possible side effects. Adult supervision not required.



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Not worth nine dollars

The Bullseye

BY MARC SNETIKER @MarcSnetiker



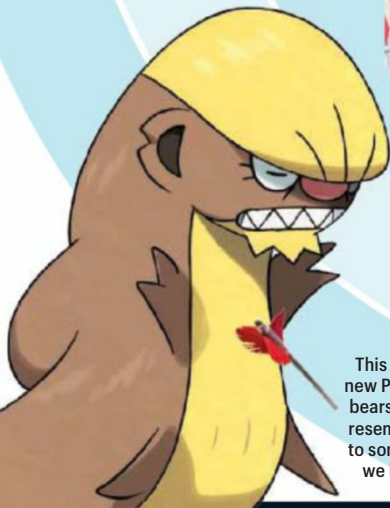
Starz developing drama *Pussy Valley*, about five astrophysicists who **JUST KIDDING!** It's about strippers.



In the time it took Frank Ocean to release his new album, George Clooney is already up to *Ocean's 31*.



Big Brother to air in the fall, so now you can lose brain cells year-round.



This brand-new Pokémon bears a yuge resemblance to somebody we know.



We can Harley contain ourselves.



Get thee to *The Get Down*.



He's just Biden his time till Hargitay needs a replacement.



What the world needs now is more Cagney and Lacey.



Snooki's "Yung Mommy" music video: an undercooked idea for this meatball



Tyler Posey trolls internet with fake coming-out. We fake forgive him.



Four out of five doctors agree: Not *all* laughter is the best medicine.



Twelve years after JoJo told us to get out/leave, we're ready to come back.



Twelve hours after JoJo told him to stay, we're ready for him to get out/leave.



Idina Menzel joins Lifetime remake of *Beaches*. Technically speaking, "Wind Beneath My Wings" was the original "Let It Go" anyway.



Channing Tatum joins remake of *Splash*, which could only be better if he somehow washed up on Menzel's beach.



This time it's not Superman's front side that's distracting us.



In which Cat Deeley and Rowan Blanchard mishear the words "Teen Choice"

SUICIDE SQUAD: CLAY BENS/WARNER BROS.; (2); POSEY: STEVE GRANITZ/WIREIMAGE.COM; JOJO: FLETCHER AND JORDAN RODGERS; RAYMOND HALL/GETTY IMAGES; TYLER HOCHLIN: KRED/PACIFICCOASTNEWS; MENZEL: JASON LAYERS/FILMMAGIC.COM; TATUM: BARRY KING/GETTY IMAGES; DEELEY: FRANK HARRISON/GETTY IMAGES; (2); TYNE DAILY AND SHARON GLESS: DAVID PAUL FORRIS/BIODOMBERG VIA GETTY IMAGES; JOE BIDEN: MICHAEL PARKER/REUTERS/BOU PHOTO BANK VIA GETTY IMAGES; NINTENDO: JULE CHEN; BILL INOSHITA/ACS VIA GETTY IMAGES; THE US: DOWN EARTH'S FREE; ANTHONY HANEY VIA GETTY IMAGES; OSCAR HORN: BIRDA/GETTY IMAGES; JOE BIDEN: JULE CHEN; BILL INOSHITA/ACS VIA GETTY IMAGES

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